

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERANS 1ST CLASS MACHINIST MATE ROYCE DAVID AND SIGNALMAN THIRD CLASS JACK GOODWIN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize two World War II veterans, 1st Class Machinist Mate Royce David and Signalman Third Class Jack Goodwin, for their distinguished service in the U.S. Navy.

On the morning of April 16, 1945, Japanese suicide pilots in the South Pacific attacked the USS *Laffey* and nearby sister ship USS *LCS 51*. The heavy strikes began at 8:27 a.m. when two planes headed for the bow and two other planes headed for the stern of USS *Laffey*. With the assistance of USS *LCS 51*, all four planes were shot down. In fact, it would take six more kamikazes to finally penetrate the ships. The USS *Laffey* caught fire when the seventh plane crashed. While most ships would sink after just one plane hit, *Laffey* withstood eight more plane crashes and bombs.

All total, twenty-two planes attempted to attack the USS *Laffey*, nine of which were shot down. *Laffey* survived the attacks, despite heavy damage to the ship, including a complete loss of electrical power, and pulled into port the following day.

On board these two ships were two men from North Texas. Mr. David, of Mesquite, Texas, was serving in the engine room of USS *Laffey*. Meanwhile, Mr. Goodwin, of Garland, Texas, was aboard the USS *51*, which picked up several of *Laffey's* overboard crewmembers, fought fires, and helped shoot down suicide bombers.

Mr. Goodwin, along with the rest of USS *LCS 51* crew, earned the Presidential Unit Citation for his action and assistance on April 16, 1945. A year later, Mr. Goodwin received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy Reserves as a Signalman Third Class and returned to Texas to work as a structural ironworker and in the freight industry as a truck driver.

Mr. David served in the U.S. Navy for two more years and then returned to Texas to work for the U.S. Post Office. Sixty-three years later, these two gentlemen are finally receiving their long overdue medals. I am honored to recognize Mr. David for earning the Navy Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign with one bronze star, the Combat Action Ribbon, a Honorable Service Lapel Pin (Ruptured Duck), and a Discharge Button.

I also want to recognize Mr. Goodwin for earning the Combat Action Ribbon, the Honorable Service Lapel Pin (Ruptured Duck), and the Navy Discharge Button.

Today, these gentlemen live in neighboring cities in North Texas, attend the same church, and have formed a deep friendship.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am humbled and privileged to recognize Mr. Royce David and Mr. Jack Goodwin. As Calvin Coolidge once said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will itself be forgotten." I for one am committed to ensuring this nation never forgets.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE MUNCIE ROTARY

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank the Rotary Club of Muncie, Indiana for their invaluable service to the residents of my hometown of Columbus, Indiana following catastrophic flooding that city experienced in early June.

"The Power of One," by Tom Farris was published in the Muncie Star Press on August 10, 2008. The article outlines the tremendous support provided by the Muncie Rotary Club and the leadership they provided in the early clean-up efforts. Tom Farris writes:

Often when we think of Rotary relief and assistance programs, we picture people in need halfway around the globe or the worldwide eradication of polio. However, the summertime flooding, which has been labeled a once-in-several-hundred-years disaster, caused hundreds of millions of dollars in damages in Indiana and proved that those in need can be as close as several counties away.

Congressman Mike Pence visited the Muncie Rotary Club on June 17 to provide an update on what had been going on in Washington. But since he had been back in Indiana visiting the flood-ravaged areas of his district, he focused on the extensive damage he had observed in many parts of eastern Indiana, especially severe in the Columbus area . . .

While the Congressman spoke to us, a banner in the Indiana Room at Minnetrista proclaimed the theme "The Power of One." Within 24 hours, "The Power of One" was well underway to connect the Muncie Rotary Club to flood victims in Columbus, thanks to Muncie Rotarian Gay Nation, the Club's then incoming chairman for community service. Gay is well-known for taking a project and putting her mind and heart into it for dramatic results. She contacted the Columbus Sunrise and Noon Rotary Clubs to offer help and by the following Tuesday, four work trips were planned—July 12, 19, 26 and Aug. 2—so Muncie Rotary Club members could volunteer to assist in Columbus.

Gay learned bottled water was in great demand, so she clipped coupons from the Sunday edition of The Star Press, contacted retailers and Rotary began accepting donations to purchase water and cleaning supplies. Plus Rotarians began contacting other organizations to make them aware of the needs and to connect them to the relief efforts.

Members of the Muncie Rotary Club participating in the Columbus area flood relief

efforts included: Doug Bakken, Marlin Creasy, Roni Johnson, Gay Nation, Jim Needham, Pat Garofolo, Lois Rockhill, Bob Gortner, Loyal Cutforth, Leslie Anderson and Ray Montagno, along with Bill Green, a neighbor of Gay Nation. Tom Kosar from the Muncie Sunrise Rotary Club collected funds for the purchase of 28 cases of water. Columbus Sunrise Rotary Club members assisting with the relief efforts included: Jodi Engelstad (president), Charles Dewey, Mike Ferree, Paula Ferree, Don Harvey, Cindy Greene, Owen Hungerford, Lyn Morgan, Kara Steele, Celeste Racette, Jill Shedd, Mary Tucker, Loretta Ulery, Bia Carasco (an exchange student from Brazil) and David "Mac" McCorry, president of the Columbus Noon Rotary Club.

Additional donors to the project include Muncie Sunrise Rotary Club, which donated 28 cases of water; Lynette Freeman of Cardinal Greenway, more 111 gallons of water, plus 28 cases of water and soda; Mary Alice Hatten, CVS store manager, personally donated two large coolers and 10 cases of water; K-Mart store manager Joetta Roysden donated three large coolers and allowed Rotary to purchase 10 cases of water at a great discount, plus Rotarians donated over \$750 to a matching fund to provide a new \$3,000 camera for Columbus Regional Hospital. In total, Rotary delivered 2,280 bottles of water.

Never underestimate "The Power of One" in getting people engaged to assist neighbors in need—or people they don't even know. Although the flood devastation in the Columbus area didn't receive great media attention, people were hurting and the need for help was real. I think Rotary's Flood Relief Efforts provide a perfect illustration of the Rotary motto "Service Above Self."

I commend each of the individuals mentioned in this article, and extend my deepest gratitude to this dedicated group of volunteers who went out of their way to help fellow Hoosiers in need.

RECOGNITION OF CHARLIE WEEMS' SERVICE ON THE LSU BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Charlie Weems and his service on the Louisiana State University (LSU) Board of Supervisors.

For 17 years Mr. Weems served on the LSU Board of Supervisors with meritorious distinction, providing tireless energy and superb leadership.

A former chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Weems was at the forefront of the long, tedious task of upgrading LSU at Alexandria into an institution granting baccalaureate degrees. During his service, he was a tenacious proponent of the Flagship Agenda and Forever LSU campaign that have generated a Top Tier designation by U.S. News & World Report for the first time in LSU history.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Charlie Weems for his remarkable service and contributions to the LSU Board of Supervisors.

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

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HONORING THE PHOENIXVILLE AREA VIOLENCE PREVENTION NETWORK

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization that has been committed for nearly a decade to improving the quality of life in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

The Phoenixville Area Violence Prevention Network has been working with community leaders since 1999 on strategies for strengthening neighborhoods and aiming to rid the Borough of violence. With countless hours of hard work and scores of dedicated volunteers, this organization has brought together schools, church groups and other members of the community to institute a call for peace and zero tolerance for violence.

The network will commemorate its ninth annual Day of Remembrance and Hope on Sunday, September 14 in Reeves Park. The event will remember the victims of violence, promote anti-violence activities and recognize local individuals who exemplify and work to advance peace in the community.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the Phoenixville Area Violence Prevention Network and all those who give some of their time and energy in hopes of building better communities.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTA- TIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF OHIO

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to one of our own; my friend and colleague, the Honorable Chairwoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES who represented the 11th congressional district of Ohio for five terms. Sadly she passed away at the young age of 59 on August 20, 2008 from an aneurysm in her brain. She is survived by

her son, Mervyn L. Jones II, and her sister Barbara Walker.

Congresswoman TUBBS JONES truly was a pioneer. She became the first African-American woman to chair the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct in the 110th Congress and the first African-American woman to serve on the Committee on Ways and Means in the 108th Congress where she played an important role on the health subcommittee. She fought tirelessly for wealth building and economic development, access and delivery of health care, and quality education for all. The Congresswoman had the ability to remain grounded and always continued to work and include the interests of her constituents when dealing with issues.

It was an honor and a privilege to have worked directly with her on the Committee on Ways and Means. On the Health Subcommittee she focused on End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD), disparities and she played an important role in the SCHIP debate. She was a strong supporter of tax provisions designed to encourage the rehabilitation of historic, and other real property, and to encourage community development. Despite her constituency that is mainly unionized, she supported the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement and other free-trade agreements as long as they met the International Labor Organizations Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Right to Work.

She will be missed by members on both sides of the aisle and by staff on the hill who admired and enjoyed working with her as well. We who knew and worked with her will surely be among many who will miss her smile, her tenacity, and her infectious love of life. She leaves us an inspirational legacy, a memorable record of public service and a charge to keep fighting for what is right and just. She will forever be in our hearts.

MR. STEVE TOKARSKI

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, It is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize Mr. Steve Tokarski. I can truly say that when it comes to service to one's community, few people can match the outstanding efforts of Steve Tokarski. Steve has always been a dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizen. Having known him for many years, I can say with certainty that he is one of the most involved citizens I have ever known. Steve has served the Polish American community in Northwest Indiana and beyond for many years, and for his efforts, he will be honored at a banquet hosted by the Silver Bell Club on Sunday, September 21, 2008, at the Salvatorian Monastery in Merrillville, Indiana.

An attorney by trade, Steve began his career after completing his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Indiana University School of Law in 1969. Prior to that, he attended Purdue University, where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree. Mr. Tokarski's desire to serve his community, paired with his passion for his chosen profession, eventually led to him serving not only as a deputy prosecutor for Lake County, Indiana, but also as

the attorney for the City of Lake Station and the Town of Schererville. Steve's knowledge of law and his overwhelming desire to serve his community made him a perfect fit to continue his work on behalf of the Polish American community, and his willingness to serve has made him very successful in the many posts he has held.

Indisputably, Steve Tokarski has been extremely successful throughout his legal career. However, his efforts on behalf of the Polish American community have truly set him apart from his peers. As a member of the Polish National Alliance (PNA), he has served as the Director for the Indiana/Michigan region, as a member of the Board of Directors, as Chairperson of the Rules and Regulations Committee, and as a member of the Education Committee, the Financial Control Committee, and the Membership Committee. He also served as Parliamentarian, First Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary for various conventions. Additionally, Steve has served as President of PNA Council Number 127 and of PNA Lodge Number 2365—Silver Bell Club.

In addition to his efforts with the PNA, Steve has also been extremely active in the Polish American Congress (PAC), currently serving as the President for its Indiana division, a position he has maintained since 1977. Mr. Tokarski has also served as the National Director and the Parliamentarian for the Council of National Directors of the PAC and as Chairperson of the By-Laws and Grievance Committees. He has also served as Vice President of the PAC's charitable foundation since 1995.

Steve's community involvement does not end with his service to these two outstanding organizations. He is also an active member of several Purdue University alumni associations, as well as the Purdue President's Council, and he has held positions as Secretary-Treasurer and State Vice President of the National Advocates Society since 1984.

When not engaged within the community, Steve spends his spare time with his loving wife of 35 years, Marsha. Steve and Marsha, a stained glass artist and former science teacher, have two sons: David and Christopher.

Madam Speaker, Steve Tokarski has given his time and efforts selflessly to his church, his community, and the Polish American people of Northwest Indiana and beyond. His efforts have touched the hearts of many people throughout the years, and at this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL RICKY CREWS, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the service of Colonel Ricky Crews, U.S. Air Force, who is retiring after 33 years of dedicated service to this Nation. A graduate of the University of West Florida and Troy State University, Colonel Crews is the Installation Inspector General for the 94th Airlift

Wing, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, GA. Colonel Crews acted as the "eyes and ears" of the Wing Commander as he identified and corrected problems and coordinated the installation Fraud, Waste and Abuse monitoring program.

Colonel Crews enlisted in the Air Force in 1975. He completed basic training at Lackland AFB, TX before receiving specialized training at Keesler AFB, MS in Signals Intelligence. He performed tours of duty with the 6987th Security Group at Shu Lin Kou, AS in Taipei, Taiwan and with the 6917th Security Group, at San Vito AS, in Brindisi, Italy. He finished his active duty commitment with an assignment as a Communications Specialist at Strategic Air Command Headquarters in Omaha, NE.

Colonel Crews joined the Air Force Reserve in 1979 at Eglin Air Force Base Aux Field 3 (Duke Field), FL as an Airborne Weapons Mechanic, flying AC-130A Gunship missions worldwide. Upon his commissioning in 1983 through Officer Training School, he was assigned back to the 711th Special Operations Squadron at Eglin AF Aux Field 3 (Duke Field), FL, as a Fire Control Officer. He was responsible for directing and controlling the tactical operations of the AC-130A aircraft during both training and actual combat operations. In 1988, Colonel Crews moved forward in the AC-130A to assume the duties of Mission Navigator. During his assignment at Duke Field, Colonel Crews participated in several real world contingencies including operations in Panama, Haiti, and Iraq.

Colonel Crews' other assignments include: the 911th Airlift Wing, Pittsburgh, PA, the 908th Airlift Wing, Assistant Director of Operations for the 357th Airlift Squadron, 908th Operations Support Flight Commander and the Deputy Commander, 908th Operations Group, Air Force Reserve Command in Maxwell AFB, AL, 908th Aeromedical Evacuation Support, and the 908th Operations Support Squadron. This assignment included recruiting, equipping and training combat aircrews to ensure combat readiness to meet all Air Force Reserve and global airlift requirements in peace and wartime in support of the Total Force. While assigned at Maxwell, Colonel Crews served in both Afghanistan and Iraq in support of the Global War on Terror.

A navigator with over 3,500 hours, Colonel Crews has flown global close air support and airlift missions including combat missions in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan and combat support missions in Panama, Haiti, Qatar and Uzbekistan. He completed Air War College in 2004 and Air Command and Staff College in 2001.

Madam Speaker, few can match the dedication and professionalism of Colonel Ricky Crews. He is a man of honor and a man of principle. On behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, I wish to thank Colonel Crews for his years of dedicated service. Vicki and I wish him, his wife, Debbie, and their daughter, Alyssa Ivey our best wishes for continued success and happiness in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. JOE ADERHOLT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day in the lives of two constituents of mine, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Aderholt.

On August 24, the Aderholts celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Joe Marvin Aderholt was born on March 25, 1936, in Cedar Springs, AL, and his wife, Mary Jane Finley, was born on September 19, 1936 also in Cedar Springs. Joe and Jane met and married in the small community of Weaver, AL. Over the years, they have been blessed with two daughters, Alison and Angie, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Joe and Jane have been active members of Weaver Baptist Church where Joe has been a soloist in the church choir.

They celebrated their 50th Anniversary on August 23 at Weaver Baptist Church with a reception honoring them given by friends and family.

I would like to congratulate Joe and Jane for reaching this important milestone in their lives. They are shining examples of love and dedication for us all, and I wish them and their family all the best at this important occasion.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH J. MICARE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Judge Joseph J. Micare and pay tribute to his memory.

A native of Albany, NY, Joseph Micare served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He graduated from Albany Law School and was past Venerable of the Albany Chapter of the Sons of Italy and a lifetime member of the Bucci McTeague Post.

Judge Micare served for many years as the chief counsel for the New York Liquor Authority. He worked as an assistant attorney general for the State of New York before he was appointed administrative law judge with the Social Security Administration.

Judge Micare and his family have proudly called southwest Alabama home for the past 25 years.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a friend to many throughout Alabama, as well as a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather.

Judge Joseph L. Micare will be dearly missed by his family—his wife of 35 years, Sharleen McClellan O'Hare Micare; his son, Pascal Micare; his daughters, Jan Micare and Gina Micare; his stepson, Shawn O'Hare; his stepdaughter, Meghan O'Hare; his 10 grandchildren, Deana Corrigan, Marc Micare, Jason

Micare, Hanna Sponberg, Kate Sponberg, Brandon Grant, Justin Grant, Sam O'Hare, Jack O'Hare, and Dee Dee Micare; his six great-grandchildren; and his two sisters, Rose Delehanty and Angie Shiek—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1338) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes:

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise to express my enthusiastic support for H.R. 1338, the Paycheck Fairness Act, and thank Chairman MILLER of the Education and Labor Committee and Congresswoman DELAURO, the sponsor of this legislation for their tireless work and leadership on this Issue.

To paraphrase James Madison, "If men [and women] were angels, no government would be necessary." And in an ideal world, we wouldn't need legislation to reinforce the concept of equal pay for equal work. But even today in 2008, when women make on average only 77 cents for every one dollar made by their male counterparts, the importance of the Paycheck Fairness Act is clear.

Gender-based wage discrimination has been illegal in this country since the Equal Pay Act of 1963 was signed into law. Yet, the pay disparity between women and men that still persists today highlights the need to take another look at our wage discrimination laws. This disparity, by the way, is estimated to cost a working woman between \$400,000 and \$2 million over a lifetime.

I am a proud cosponsor of the Paycheck Fairness Act. It is about equal pay for equal work—and it is about time!

TRIBUTE TO ED SMITH: RETIREE OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time leader in the labor movement, Ed Smith. I am very proud and happy to join with the San Diego Labor Community in honoring Ed as the "2008 Johns Retiree of the Year!"

Ed began working in small "Mom and Pop" grocery stores at the age of 13. By the age of 18, he was a full time journeyman grocery store clerk and a member of Local 1222, Retail Clerks, which is now known as U.F.C.W. 135. In December of 1966, he went to work for Coca-Cola Bottling Company of San Diego as a route sales driver and joined Teamster Local Union 683. While at Coke, he held various leadership positions.

In May of 1977, he went to work for I.T.T. Continental Baking Company-Wonder Bread as a route sales driver. While at Wonder Bread, he assumed the role of shop steward and quickly became interested in worker's rights. In October 1991, he was appointed trustee to the Executive Board of Teamsters Local 683. In January of 1994, he was hired as a business agent and served in that capacity for 5½ years.

Upon Rich Truffa's retirement in November of 1999, Ed was appointed secretary-treasury, a position he held until his retirement on January 1, 2005. Ed currently resides in San Diego with his wife, Linda. They have been married for 43 years, and have one daughter and two grandchildren, a 12-year old grandson, and an 8-year granddaughter.

In his retirement, our Retiree of the Year, Ed Smith, continues to support and champion worker's rights and remains active in the labor community!

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY PROTECTION AND RESPONSE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Community Protection and Response Act to eliminate confusion in responding to disasters following homeland security events.

One of the major lessons learned in the aftermath of September 11th, 2001 is that timely response is critical. Any delay complicates short-, medium-, and long-term recovery efforts. Sadly, many of the lessons that we have learned have gone without an appropriate response.

In response to the attacks of September 11th, for example, Congress took a series of actions to bring relief to affected areas. These legislative actions along with existing statutes, including the Robert T. Stafford Relief and Emergency Act and the Disaster Mitigation Act, formed the framework for the Federal Government's response. The magnitude of the attacks and the need for Congress to take action before certain relief could be delivered added to the challenge of the recovery efforts and exposed critical weaknesses in Federal authority to respond.

The Community Protection and Response Act would amend the Stafford Act along with other statutes and would give the President a series of policy options to choose from following a homeland security event. A homeland security event is defined as an event that poses a significant risk to the security of people and property and is of such magnitude that effective response is beyond the scope and capability of the affected State and local government. Many of these options are based on congressional action following September 11th, or other policy suggestions in reports by the Congressional Research Service, the General Accounting Office and the New York branch of the Federal Reserve. Specifically, in the event of a homeland security event, the President can provide grants for lost tax revenue, aid to school systems, and assistance to medical facilities and utility companies. The

bill also establishes guidelines to ensure the public health of area residents and disaster workers.

This bill is an important failsafe and preventive measure that will ensure America is prepared to respond to any homeland security event in the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 165TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE HOPEWELL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the members of Hopewell Methodist Episcopal Church in Valley, Alabama, who on September 7, 2008, celebrated their congregation's 165th anniversary.

Church founder James M. Spear began holding Methodist class meetings in his home in the early 1840s. Hopewell's first church was erected in 1843, and the congregation moved to the current site in 1853. Since that time, the church has seen many changes, including renovations to its historic sanctuary and the addition of a parsonage in 1966. The celebration on September 7th paid tribute to the work of Hopewell on behalf of its members and community.

I am pleased to recognize the Hopewell Methodist Episcopal Church today for reaching this important milestone in the history of their congregation and wish its members all the best in its next 165 years of faith and witnessing in the community.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF OHIO

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, history will remember STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES as a trailblazer. News reports about her death are littered with firsts: first black woman to represent Ohio in the House, first black woman on Ways and Means, first woman and first African-American prosecutor in Cuyahoga County.

Those who worked with her will remember her electric smile, the kind of smile that made you feel like everything would be alright. We will remember her warmth, how she could hug somebody and give them a piece of her high spirits. She had that uncanny ability to make everybody she encountered—from presidents to homeless constituents—feel like they had known her for years. Her gift was to connect with people on a purely human level. No pretense. When confronted with immensely powerful men and women, she would treat them

with the same casual kindness that won her the love of her constituents back in Cleveland.

Most importantly, we will remember her courage. STEPHANIE was never intimidated by anybody or anything. When she saw injustice, she did something about it, even when the battle would be difficult and victory uncertain. She spoke for those in need of a champion. In her career, she transcended the barriers of race, class and gender that continue to undermine the great American creed of equal opportunity. In her work, she helped ensure that those barriers will not stop future generations of Americans from achieving their potential.

STEPHANIE loved warm words, but she preferred strong actions. Let her example help us to speak truth to power and stand up for justice. The best tribute we could offer to so passionate and committed a public servant is to continue her work.

HONORING THE SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF JIM TUCKER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. NUNES and Mr. CARDOZA to pay tribute and congratulate the distinguished public service and educational career of Mr. Jim Tucker. After 19 years, Jim Tucker is leaving his position as host of the Valley Press Show. Mr. Tucker will be honored at a reception held by Valley Public Television on Wednesday, August 27, 2008.

During his 19 years of service, Mr. Tucker has hosted the Valley Press Show and has interviewed more than 1,500 guests on more than 650 episodes and hosted 40 political debates. His guests included national, state and local politicians, celebrities, authors, historians, sports figures, religious, educational and community leaders, as well as, numerous members of our local Valley media. He planned, prepared, wrote, scheduled and hosted the weekly program. Valley Press is the signature KVPT public affairs program; it provides viewers with an in-depth look at major local area news stories. Mr. Tucker has been responsible for researching topics of interest and contacting the numerous guests for the program. Mr. Tucker has dedicated himself tirelessly to KVPT—Valley Public Television and to his community.

Mr. Tucker also taught journalism in the Mass Communications Department at California State University, Fresno. Due to his vast wisdom and knowledge of journalism and reporting, he has been honored with many distinctions recognition awards throughout the years. His awards include Outstanding Journalism Professor of the Year in 1996, twice nominee for a regional Emmy award and California State University of Fresno Provost's Award for excellence in Teaching in 1997.

For those who have had the wonderful opportunity to be one of the guests on Jim's show, it has always been a learning experience. The same dedication and knowledge of journalism he shared with his students at Fresno State was always demonstrated in his efforts to bring as much information as possible from his guests to the public at large.

That is what made his show one of the best of its kind, and why he had such a large following throughout the Valley and across the entire political spectrum. As a result, Jim Tucker is the quintessential journalist; always seeking answers to tough questions in an attempt to try and better inform the public, who are the critical link in making representative democracy work effectively.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Jim Tucker upon his retirement from Valley Public Television. As a valley resident his journalistic integrity and credibility have been greatly appreciated. Upon his retirement, as he prepares to spend more time with his family and endeavors of interest to him, we thank him for his service and we wish him continued success and best of luck for the future.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF RUDDER HIGH SCHOOL IN BRYAN, TX

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the newly dedicated James Earl Rudder High School in the community of Bryan-College Station, TX.

There is something very special about the dedication of a new school. It is a place where so many lives will be shaped, so many memories made, a place where hopes for a better world will become a reality. Add to that that James Earl Rudder was a true American hero, and it makes the dedication of this high school a memorable event in the history of Brazos County.

Superintendent Cargill and Principal Piatt, thank you for giving me the privilege of being there, because the Rudder family has had a very personal impact on my life. Mrs. Earl Rudder was like a second mother to me, although in fairness, I should point out that she effectively adopted thousands of Aggies over several generations. That did not make her any less special to me, and I want to thank Ann, Linda, Bud and Bob for sharing for so many years your mother and father with all of us in your extended Aggie family.

I never met General Rudder, because he died just months before I enrolled at A&M in 1970, but like every American and every citizen of the world who benefited from the defeat of Nazi forces in World War II, I am the beneficiary of his indomitable courage on D-Day, which marked the beginning of the end for Hitler's plan of world domination.

In a more personal way, I paid for my graduate school education with the scholarship I received when I was awarded the Earl Rudder Award upon my graduation from A&M in 1974. Nevertheless, receiving that award has always been a source of deep humility to me, because I know that I could not even walk in the shadows of this great American's shoes.

I want to salute the school board members, Superintendent Cargill, Principal Piatt, and all who made this new school possible. James Earl Rudder High School is far more than brick, glass and mortar, because a school represents the very best of our values as a community. This school represents the commit-

ment of one generation to the next. It represents this community's willingness to tax itself to ensure that its children have a fair chance to reach their highest God-given potential.

It is in our schools and houses of worship that we witness our best sense of community, a sense that we truly are our brothers' keepers. It is in our schools that we Americans strive to provide for equality of opportunity for all. Ours is an imperfect, never ending journey, but in that march toward equality for all, we show our greatness and goodness as a nation.

Thomas Jefferson was the 33-year-old author of our Declaration of Independence. He was our third and one of our greatest Presidents. Yet, before he died, he made it clear that he wanted it etched on his gravestone that he was the founder of a university. In his wisdom, Thomas Jefferson understood the importance of education to our democracy.

Two centuries later, I believe that each of you who played a role in founding James Earl Rudder High School shares the right to be proud of your accomplishment. It is my hope that the life and values of Earl Rudder will be an inspiration to every student here from this day forward. We should never forget the story of Earl Rudder, because his is the story of the American spirit. It is a story from which we can all learn.

Born in the small town of Eden, Texas, Earl Rudder did not inherit material wealth, but his family, faith and education helped mold a true leader. Like so many Americans, he dedicated his life to helping others, to serving his country.

After graduating from Texas A&M in 1932, Earl Rudder was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves. He then chose the noble profession of teaching—first as a coach and teacher at Brady High School and later at Tarleton State College. In 1941, his country called him to duty, and did he ever answer that call. Rising through the ranks because of his integrity, courage and leadership skills, he was chosen to lead the 2nd Ranger Battalion by one of the most respected Generals to ever serve in the U.S. Army, General Omar Bradley.

His D-Day mission was to lead the best of the best up the 100-foot cliffs of Pointe du Hoc to disarm massive German guns that could have killed thousands of American G.I.s and put the Allied invasion of France at risk.

General Bradley said this about the responsibility given then Lt. Colonel Earl Rudder:

"No soldier in my command has ever been wished a more difficult task than that which befell the thirty-four-year-old Commander of this Provisional Ranger Force."

Two hundred and twenty-five Rangers began their mission on that perilous day when literally the fate of the world was in their hands. Only ninety-nine survived, but because of the heroism of Earl Rudder and Rudder's Rangers that day, our world survived the tyranny of Adolf Hitler. Lt. Colonel Rudder, this great Aggie and American, didn't stop there. He went on to lead a unit in the Battle of the Bulge and became one of the most decorated veterans of World War II.

Having every right to say his public service was completed at the end of World War II, Earl Rudder did what so many of America's veterans have done throughout our history. He spent the rest of his life in service to others

and to the country he loved. He moved back to Brady, Texas and became its mayor. He was elected Land Commissioner of Texas, a position he used to clean up abuses in veterans' land programs.

When he became the President of Texas A&M University, his beloved alma mater, Earl Rudder told his close classmate of '32 and my mentor, Congressman Olin E. Teague, that he had to make a decision that in some ways brought more heat on him than German guns at Pointe du Hoc. He decided to allow women into A&M and to make the Corps of Cadets voluntary for A&M students.

Some Aggies didn't talk to President Rudder ever again. But, just as he did on D-Day, Earl Rudder showed the courage of his conviction. Just as D-Day literally helped save the world as we know it, President Rudder's decision in the 1960s saved the future of Texas A&M. It was, perhaps, the most important decision ever made by any President of Texas A&M, and I am not sure if any other person but Earl Rudder could have made it. In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson presented Earl Rudder with the Distinguished Service Medal, our Nation's highest civilian award.

Love of faith, family and country; courage under fire; integrity; and lifelong service to others—these were the values of Earl Rudder. They are the quintessential American values that have made ours the greatest nation in the world.

My hope is that the story and values of Earl Rudder will inspire the lives of everyone who walks through these doors for generations to come. If so, then ours will be a better community and a better country, and we will have truly honored the service of this American hero.

May God bless James Earl Rudder High School and all who will serve there.

BUD DOGGETT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of my good friend, and a pillar of our Washington community, L.B. "Bud" Doggett, Jr. Bud died last month, while Congress was out of session, but I want to take this moment to note how dearly he will be missed, and how many will miss him.

Bud was one of Washington's most successful businessmen, who turned a small parking company founded by his parents into a local business powerhouse. But he was far from content to simply enjoy his success; instead, he made himself into a vital civic leader, contributing immeasurably to Washington's development into a world-class city. Bud was born here in the District, and he always said he never crossed "the Potomac Ocean" unless absolutely necessary. Everyone who lives here is a beneficiary of his dedication to his hometown.

But to Bud, leadership meant service as much as it meant power. He learned the spirit of service in the European Theater of World War II, and he put it to work back home. Perhaps his most lasting accomplishment was the foundation of Heroes Inc., a charity that for the last 45 years has provided for the families of

police officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty. As his wife, Cherrie Wanner Doggett, said at his funeral: "What he most loved was watching his friends and the people he loved being happy. His pleasure in life was doing for others—especially when he knew he was helping someone who could never give him anything in return."

Our community was blessed to have a servant-leader like Bud Doggett, for so long. He will be dearly missed.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS
JONES, A REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE STATE OF OHIO

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, mentor, and a true pioneer. Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was taken from us at far too young an age when she passed away on August 20th. On August 30th, during a memorial ceremony held at the Cleveland Public Hall, I addressed the hundreds of friends and family in attendance to pay tribute to STEPHANIE and I would like to share those remarks here as well:

There was a famous song a few years back called, "I Hope You Dance." And it's a song that passes along some advice to all of us, and the refrain of the song says, "If you have the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance." And we all know that STEPHANIE didn't sit it out; she danced. She danced through this life with a style all her own, and she now gets to dance once again with her favorite partner, Mervin. Whether literally dancing on the dance floor or dancing through life, she possessed the key quality of any great dancer—she was fearless. She wasn't real concerned with criticism because she got her instructions from the inside. And as Connie Shultz pointed out last week in her wonderful column, "When the rough and tumble side of Cleveland politics reared its head and threatened STEPHANIE, she simply said, 'I don't have time for fear.'"

Gandhi said, "My life is my message." And so it is with STEPHANIE. Her life instructs us that if we live a life without fear, we allow God's light to pour through us, like His light poured through STEPHANIE. We saw this light in her bright smile and her catchy laugh; her high-fives she always liked to give when she made a witty comment; and the nicknames she gave us, as Congressman MEEK said, I was the "white son." We felt this light in her passion for justice and her warmth for humanity. Her life teaches us that if we live with courage and allow God's light to shine, we can travel farther and higher than we ever dreamed; that we can achieve the seemingly unachievable; and that we can break glass ceilings and overcome barriers with grace and joy. Whether it's Mervin, or Barbara, or her staff, or Members of Congress, or Senators, or presidential candidates, STEPHANIE's death gives us what she gave us so many times in life—our marching orders: To live a fearless life. To let our light shine. To bring joy and

hope. To lift people. To dance. The daughter of Cleveland's life mission. And the credo she asks us to live by is reflected in the short poem called, "I Am One."

I am only one,
But I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But I can do something.
And that which I can do,
I ought to do.
And that which I ought to do,
By the grace of God, I shall do.

We love you, STEPHANIE.

INTRODUCTION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF GEORGIA ENHANCED TRADE
ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC RECOVERY,
AND RECONSTRUCTION ACT
OF 2008

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to introduce the Republic of Georgia Enhanced Trade Assistance, Economic Recovery, and Reconstruction Act of 2008. This bill will provide urgently needed economic and reconstruction assistance to the people of Georgia following Russia's invasion of that sovereign and independent country last month.

Madam Speaker, the war between Russia and Georgia resulted in the displacement of tens of thousands of men, women, and children from the conflict zone in South Ossetia and elsewhere in Georgia. There is credible evidence that at least some villages were hit because they were populated by ethnic Georgians. As we know, people can't work when they have nowhere to live and their basic needs are not being met. Additionally, the Russians clearly targeted critical components of Georgia's economic infrastructure for destruction, resulting in the disruption of domestic and regional commerce.

The dire circumstances in the aftermath of the invasion require timely action by the United States and the international community.

As Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation, the body charged by Congress with monitoring human rights throughout Europe and beyond, I am deeply concerned over developments in and around Georgia, a country I have visited on numerous occasions, most recently in January. It pains me that there is a need for the kind of legislation I am introducing today—an urgent measure to aid one OSCE country—Georgia—which is recovering from devastating damage done to its people, economy, infrastructure, and environment by another OSCE country—Russia.

The Helsinki principles were meant to preclude such armed conflict between participating states. Among them were the commitments to refrain from the threat of or use of force to resolve conflicts; and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states. In invading Georgia, Russia has violated these OSCE commitments and I am saddened to be compelled to condemn Russia's conduct.

Madam Speaker, it is apparent that Russia deliberately sought to cripple Georgia's economy, wreaking economic hardship and perhaps seeking to foment upheaval. In the process, Russia has sought to degrade key economic and commercial zones in the region, and I'm concerned that the most serious long-term damage could be the loss of confidence in Georgia as a reliable transit point for oil and gas pipelines—currently the only transit point for oil to Europe from central Asia and the Caucasus that does not go through Russia.

This legislation, while it cannot undo all of the damage done to Georgia's economy and infrastructure, will go far in helping Georgia, a strategic U.S. partner, begin to rebuild its economy and critical infrastructure while helping to create new trade, business, and economic opportunities among key countries in the region.

I welcome the administration's announcement of a package of U.S. emergency assistance to be provided to Georgia. My legislation seeks to complement these preliminary efforts with the aim of ensuring the kind of sustained assistance the people of Georgia will need in the coming months to rebuild their lives and country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and ensure its timely passage.

RABBI STANLEY HALPERN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, It is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate Rabbi Stanley Halpern as he celebrates a milestone, his 20th anniversary as Rabbi at Temple Israel in Gary, IN. Throughout his years of service at Temple Israel, Rabbi Halpern has been one of northwest Indiana's most dedicated and distinguished citizens. The people of northwest Indiana have certainly been rewarded by the service and uncompromising loyalty he has displayed to the parish and the entire community, and for his outstanding efforts, he was recognized at a dinner in his honor at Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, IN, on September 6, 2008. As part of the celebration, a very special Shabbat service also took place the previous night.

Stanley Halpern was born and raised in Spokane, WA, where he received an intensive Jewish education at Keneseth Israel Synagogue. Following his graduation from Lewis & Clark High School, he went on to receive his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Washington, where his studies were focused on Philosophy and Near Eastern Languages and Literature. He also served as Scholar in Residence at Dropsie College in Philadelphia, PA. Following his ordination, Rabbi Halpern spent the next ten years focusing on fundraising and Jewish educational work as the Executive Director of the Bureau of Jewish Education in Sacramento. Finally, in 1988, Rabbi Halpern settled into his first pulpit, Temple Israel in Gary, IN, where he has served since 1988.

Temple Israel's long tradition of dedication to social justice and active involvement in the life of northwest Indiana was a perfect fit for

Rabbi Halpern's commitment to Tikkun Olan, the obligation in Judaism of each individual to do all they can for the healing of the world.

Under Rabbi Halpern's leadership, the people of Temple Israel have involved themselves in a myriad of social and community projects, including: the Open Housing Center of Northwest Indiana, the Interfaith Clergy Council of Gary, and Muslim/Jewish Dialogue—Breaking Down Barriers by Breaking Bread Together. Temple Israel has also played a major role in assisting local veterans by teaching skills to prepare them for re-entry into the workforce. Through Rabbi Halpern's involvement with Hospice, the Bio-Ethics Committee of Community Hospital, and AIDS awareness, they have also been very active in Northwest Indiana's health care community, and they have been outstanding advocates in the fight against domestic abuse through their efforts with the Domestic Relations Counseling Bureau of Lake County. With a focus on doing what is right, Rabbi Halpern and Temple Israel have remained active in these causes, all while continuing to prosper in the building of a vibrant Jewish community in northwest Indiana.

Rabbi Halpern and his wife, Carol, reside in Portage, IN. They are the proud parents of one daughter, who also resides in Portage, and Carol's son, who resides in the Boston, MA, area.

Madam Speaker, northwest Indiana is a better place because of the tireless service of people like Rabbi Halpern. He is a man who has dedicated himself to serving others. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Rabbi Halpern for his many years of enduring service and the unforgettable effect he has had on the people of Temple Israel, as well as the entire northwest Indiana community, and I ask that you join me in congratulating him on this impressive milestone.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
CHARLES JOSEPH POLLMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Charles Joseph Pollman and pay tribute to his memory.

A lifelong resident of Mobile, Charles graduated from McGill Institute and Spring Hill College. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, Second Air Division, in Norwich, England, during World War II.

After his service in the war, he used his veteran benefits to attend the Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis, MN, where he studied baking. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Fred Pollman Sr., and became owner and operator of his parents' bakery, Pollman's Bake Shop. He started working in the family bakery when he was just 12 years old, and at the age of 88, he was still going to the bakery several days a week.

Three generations of the Pollman family have been baking in Mobile since 1918, and his passing is a tremendous loss to the city. Every Mobilian cherishes Pollman brownies, and many a schoolchild in Mobile County has

carried a Pollman po'boy in their lunch box. From ham biscuits to king cakes—Pollman's is the place to go downtown or in west Mobile. It is not an overstatement to say that thousands of wedding cakes have had the Pollman touch.

Charles Pollman also devoted much of his time to his community. He was a member of St. Pius X Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus Council No. 666.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a friend to many throughout southwest Alabama, as well as a wonderful husband and devoted father. Charles Pollman will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Beverly Pollman; their six children, Chase J. Pollman, Mary Corinne Pollman, Thomas L. Pollman, Leannah P. Duncan, Frederick J. Pollman, III, and Page H. Pollman; his sister, Mary Pollman Bender; his seven grandchildren, Zachary J. Pollman, Fred J. Pollman, IV, Michelle C. Pollman, Charles B. Duncan, Adrienne D. Duncan, Blake H. Pollman, and T. Bender Pollman—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH
CAROLINA AZALEA FESTIVAL

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to ask you to join me in recognizing the long and important tradition of the North Carolina Azalea Festival, held each year in Wilmington, NC. The North Carolina Azalea Festival's rich history reminds us of its rightful place among our nationally-recognized festivals.

Founded in 1948 as the Wilmington Azalea Festival, the festival has since grown and is now recognized at the North Carolina Azalea Festival. Now, preparing for its 62nd year, this festival deserves to be nationally recognized as a valuable tradition. It is a unique showcase for our community's rich array of artwork, gardens, history and culture through recreational, educational and family-oriented events. Furthermore, the Festival encourages volunteerism and civic participation as it contributes to the region's economy and promotes the rare qualities of Wilmington's river-to-the-sea community.

Throughout the last 62 years the North Carolina Azalea Festival has brought numerous entertainers and celebrities to the port city, including Frankie Avalon, Cab Calloway, Dionne Warwick, Bob Hope, Barbara Mandrell, Marie Osmond, Tom Jones, the Judds, Frank Sinatra, Ronald Reagan, the Beach Boys, Tim McGraw, Jessica Simpson, and Carrie Underwood. Also, it is attended each year by local, State and nationally-elected officials. The 3-day Street Fair along the Cape Fear Riverwalk brings hundreds of thousands of people out to see the local entertainers, arts, crafts, and food booths, multicultural stage performances, fireworks show, and of course the annual North Carolina Azalea Festival Parade. A Coin Show, Horse Show, Boxing Event, Circus,

Shag Contest, Queen's Coronation, and Variety Show are among the other events put on by the Festival. Wilmingtonians have long worked to organize this legendary festival so that Americans might come from near and far to enjoy its distinctive charm.

Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to speak about one of North Carolina's most treasured events. I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of the North Carolina Azalea Festival as a great American tradition.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and contributions of Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES. STEPHANIE was a good friend of mine, and I am still in shock by her sudden passing. She brought energy and enthusiasm, brilliance and dedication to this Congress, and her presence is already sorely missed.

In the weeks since her passing, I have been reflecting on her many contributions to her constituents, her state, and her country, not only most recently in the House of Representatives but also in a lifetime of service. She broke barriers, and in the process elevated the lives of those she touched, both professionally and personally. The first African-American woman elected to Congress from the state of Ohio, STEPHANIE has set the bar incredibly high with her dedication and devotion, and paved the way for future generations to follow. As an attorney, judge, and Member of Congress, she worked tirelessly on behalf of reducing poverty, ensuring access to education and affordable health care, and advocating for the rights of minorities nationwide. STEPHANIE and I saw eye-to-eye on many important issues, whether it was fighting to ensure affordable housing, or for greater protection for Haitian and other refugees, or for the simple notion that every vote should be counted. In the 110th Congress alone STEPHANIE introduced legislation to revitalize low-income communities, protect and ensure voting rights, curtail predatory lending, and provide greater resources for uterine fibroids research, a personal commitment of hers that I know she has carried for many years.

STEPHANIE and I have similar backgrounds as lawyers, judges, and of course Members of Congress, and thus I have always thought that she and I shared a kinship that went beyond just our professional responsibilities. I hold her in the highest degree of respect and admiration. Since her untimely passing, I find myself recalling her personal inspiration as she and I and so many others in this body continue to fight for a better, more equal, and more prosperous society. She is the very definition of a role model.

Mr. Speaker, STEPHANIE's presence will not be easily replaced, if it ever can. The country should value her service; and I, for one, also value her friendship.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 30th anniversary of American Citizens Abroad, ACA. This organization deserves to be honored for promoting and protecting the rights of the global American community thereby contributing to the political, social and economic prosperity of all Americans.

Americans living abroad are a key demographic in many ways and are often overlooked in Washington. Americans living abroad continue to vote and pay taxes in the United States. Their role in extending American influence around the globe is vital to the well-being of our Nation. Moreover, they are unofficial ambassadors, often the first contact many people around the world have with America and our nation's representatives abroad.

The ACA provides reports containing important information and statistics free of charge to contribute to hearings and debates in the Congress on issues of importance to the American community abroad and to all citizens at home. These efforts are designed to help Congress and the Federal government better understand and serve the members of the American community abroad. The ACA also works hard to ensure that Americans are aware of their rights and privileges while living abroad.

The ACA was founded on July 10th, 1978 in Geneva, Switzerland. Since its inception the ACA has brought together U.S. citizens living all over the world to work together to promote and protect their rights. As a cofounder of the Americans Abroad Caucus with Rep. JOE WILSON, it gives me great pleasure to stand before this Congress and honor the 30th anniversary of this wonderful organization.

IN MEMORY OF MR. S. LEE KLING

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Mr. S. Lee Kling of Country Life Acres, Missouri.

Mr. Kling was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. He attended the New York Military Academy and graduated from Washington University, St. Louis. He served in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1952.

Mr. Kling had a commitment to political service that broke the boundaries of partisanship. He worked as finance chairman for the Democratic National Committee and served as treasurer of President Jimmy Carter's re-election campaign and treasurer of Congressman Richard Gephardt's presidential committee. He received the Democratic National Committee's Distinguished Service Award in 1982. Mr. Kling also held fundraisers for several Republican candidates, and in 2006, Governor Matt Blunt appointed him to the Missouri Veterans' Commission, as well as the Missouri Development and Finance Board in the spring of 2008.

Mr. Kling's political dedication also extended to the international level. In 1977, he represented President Carter at the funeral of the president of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III. He co-chaired a committee for the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties. In 1979, he served as an economic adviser during the peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt. He was also a civilian aide to Secretary of the Army.

Mr. Kling was appointed by President Clinton to head the Base Realignment and Closure Commission in 1995. Three years later, Gephardt asked him to head the Amtrak Reform Council. In addition, Mr. Kling was the chairman of the board of the Bames-Jewish Hospital Foundation and chairman of the Kling Co., an insurance, consulting and investment firm.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Kling was a valuable leader, businessman, philanthropist, and public servant. I know the members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Rosalyn Kling; his four sons, Stephen, Lee, Allan and Frank; and his two grandchildren.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT H. OLIVER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues from California, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. NUNES and Mr. CARDOZA to pay tribute to the distinguished public service of Judge Robert H. Oliver. After more than 15 years, Judge Oliver is stepping down as Chairman of the California State University, Fresno Board of Governors in September of this year.

During his tenure with the University, Robert worked tirelessly to improve the Foundation Board, and its service to both the school and the community by increasing the orderly annual contributions to the University Advancement Division, as well as developing a strong executive committee structure within the organization. It is because of these endeavors and others like them that Robert was able to serve the second longest term as Chairman in the 76 year history of the foundation. It goes without saying that his dedication to the community is to be commended.

Due to his vast wisdom and knack for educating others, Robert was frequently called upon to lecture on or moderate discussion of a diverse variety of issues including: domestic violence, the history of traditional jazz in America, juvenile justice, and leadership in the volunteer sector. Throughout his distinguished career, Robert has served on numerous committees, boards, and panels such as the Fresno County Interagency Council for Children and Families, the Rotary Club of Fresno, and the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California. His service and work have been recognized by countless awards and honors, not the least of which is his recognition as an "Outstanding Alumnus" from both the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno and Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco.

Throughout his career, Robert Oliver has proven to be a highly effective leader who was always committed to excellence in public service. As he gets ready to spend more time on other causes and endeavors of interest to him, we thank him for his service and we wish him continued success and best of luck for the future.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CITY COUNCILMEMBER MATT GARCIA OF THE FAIRFIELD, CA CITY COUNCIL

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Councilmember Matt Garcia, who faithfully served the city of Fairfield and whose life was tragically taken last week.

Councilman Garcia, in his 22 years, made an indelible mark on the city of Fairfield and as a young leader he inspired many to make this a better world through service and sacrifice.

As the youngest member ever elected to the Fairfield City Council, Matt understood the potential for young people to effect change in their communities.

He coached Little League, rejuvenated the Fairfield Youth Commission, and vigorously supported the Police Athletics League; Councilman Garcia was a tireless advocate for the youth of Fairfield.

At the age of 16, Matt told his fellow students that he would become the mayor of Fairfield one day and never lost sight of that goal.

From his days at Armijo High to his victorious race for City Council, Matt was able to bring together diverse people and organizations.

My thoughts and prayers are with Councilmember Garcia's family and our community at this very difficult time. I am deeply saddened by his passing and know his memory will live on for generations through the work of those he inspired.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN W. RODGERS—SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, SANTA ROSA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend and neighbor, Superintendent Johnny Rodgers. Johnny has been the Superintendent of Schools, Santa Rosa County since 1999. The people of Santa Rosa County re-elected him twice since then and he is retiring from public service at the end of this year.

A career educator, the Pensacola News Journal recently wrote "For years, Santa Rosa County has relished the title of being a high-performing public school system." As Johnny gets ready to turn over the reins to a new superintendent, he should be proud of how good a school system he has led and mentored.

Johnny started his life of public service in 1968 in the United States Air Force. He served honorably in Vietnam and Thailand and upon returning to civilian life, Johnny received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of West Florida. Johnny doesn't talk much about his service during the Vietnam conflict but we all know how important his contributions were and I want to thank him again for his service during a time of war.

Before Johnny's current position, he served in numerous public education positions in Santa Rosa County, including teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal. Named Elementary School Principal of the Year in 1994 and Middle School Principal of the Year in 1997, Johnny has done it all.

He has been married to the former Vick Rogers for 40 years and together they have two children and four grandchildren.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JORGE ALBERTO SUBIRATS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama, recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Jorge Alberto Subirats and pay tribute to his memory.

A native of Havana, Cuba, Jorge came to the United States at the age of 12. He, along with his brothers and sisters, left Cuba in 1961 and flew to Miami. Jorge and his siblings soon moved to Birmingham, Alabama, where they were joined by the rest of their family in 1963. Jorge graduated from John Carroll High School in Birmingham in 1967 and from Auburn University in 1972.

A resident of Mobile for 36 years, Jorge was perhaps most widely known for his service as a realtor with Roberts Brothers for 31 years. He was consistently one of the company's top agents each year, an achievement due in large part to the trust and admiration he earned from his clients.

Jorge met every definition of a community leader—he served as a high school teacher and coach, a swim and dive coach, and a Sunday school leader. He was active in many civic organizations, including the Mobile Area Kiwanis Club and the Mobile Association of Realtors.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a friend to many throughout Alabama, as well as a wonderful husband and devoted father. Jorge Alberto Subirats will be dearly missed by his family—his wife of 25 years, Valerie Jean Subirats; their four children, Lindsey Loper, Michael Jorge Subirats, Laura Katherine Subirats, and Katherine Anne Subirats; his mother, Elvira Margaret Subirats; his brothers, Fernando Subirats, Gustavo Subirats, and Luis Subirats; and his two sisters, Silvia Theye and Margaret Hopkins—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO 173RD AIRBORNE PARATROOPERS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and to submit for the RECORD a story concerning the events of July 13, 2008, and an account of the heroics of the paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne. Reports such as this one remind every American of the bravery, the courage, and the willingness to sacrifice of every servicemember in the U.S. Armed Forces—but this tale is an exceptional example. I am honored to share it with you and with the American people.

I'm sure you heard about 9 soldiers being killed in Afghanistan a couple of weeks ago. As AP reported it, it was a "setback", the "newly established base" there was 'abandoned' by the Americans. That, of course, was the extent of their coverage.

Steve Mraz of Stars and Stripes and Jeff Emanuel tell the rest of the story. Emanuel, who went out and dug into the story sets the enemy force at 500 while AP sets it at 200. Frankly I'm much more inclined to believe Emanuel than AP.

July 13, 2008 was the date, and Jeff Emanuel, an independent combat reporter sets the scene:

Three days before the attack, 45 U.S. Paratroopers from the 173d Airborne [Brigade Combat Team], accompanied by 25 Afghan soldiers, made their way to Kunar province, a remote area in the northeastern Afghanistan-Pakistan border area, and established the beginnings of a small Combat Outpost (COP). Their movement into the area was noticed, and their tiny numbers and incomplete fortifications were quickly taken advantage of.

A combined force of up to 500 Taliban and al Qaeda fighters quickly moved into the nearby village of Wanat and prepared for their assault by evicting unallied residents and according to an anonymous senior Afghan defense ministry official, "us [ing] their houses to attack us."

Tribesmen in the town stayed behind "and helped the insurgents during the fight," the provincial police chief, told The Associated Press.

Dug-in mortar firing positions were created, and with that indirect fire, as well as heavy machine gun and RPG fire from fixed positions, Taliban and al Qaeda fighters rushed the COP from three sides.

As Emanuel notes, the odds were set. 500 vs. 70. Even so, Emanuel entitled his article, "An Alamo With a Different Ending." The 500 terrorists apparently didn't realize they were attacking US Army paratroopers.

The unit in question was 2nd Platoon, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, led by 1LT Jonathan Brostrom.

The first RPG and machine gun fire came at dawn, strategically striking the forward operating base's mortar pit. The insurgents next sighted their RPGs on the tow truck inside the combat outpost, taking it out.

That was around 4:30 a.m.

This was not a haphazard attack. The reportedly 500 insurgents fought from several positions. They aimed to overrun the new base. The U.S. Soldiers knew it and fought like hell. They knew their lives were on the line.

The next target was the FOB's observation post, where nine soldiers were positioned on

a tiny hill about 50 to 75 meters from the base. Of those nine, five died, and at least three others—Spc. Tyler Stafford among them—were wounded.

When the attack began, Stafford grabbed his M-240 machine gun off a north-facing sandbag wall and moved it to an east-facing sandbag wall.

Moments later, RPGs struck the north-facing wall, knocking Stafford out of the fighting position and wounding another soldier.

Stafford thought he was on fire so he rolled around, regaining his senses. Nearby, Cpl. Gunnar Zwilling, who later died in the fight, had a stunned look on his face.

Immediately, a grenade exploded by Stafford, blowing him down to a lower terrace at the observation post and knocking his helmet off. Stafford put his helmet back on and noticed how badly he was bleeding.

Cpl. Matthew Phillips was close by, so Stafford called to him for help.

Phillips was preparing to throw a grenade and shot a look at Stafford that said, "Give me a second. I gotta go kill these guys first."

This was only about 30 to 60 seconds into the attack.

Kneeling behind a sandbag wall, Phillips pulled the grenade pin, but just after he threw it an RPG exploded at his position. The tail of the RPG smacked Stafford's helmet. The dust cleared. Phillips was slumped over, his chest on his knees and his hands by his side. Stafford called out to his buddy three or four times, but Phillips never answered or moved.

"When I saw Phillips die, I looked down and was bleeding pretty good, that's probably the most scared I was at any point," Stafford said.

"Then I kinda had to calm myself down and be like, 'All right, I gotta go try to do my job.'"

The soldier from Parker, Colo., loaded his 9 mm handgun, crawled up to their fighting position, stuck the pistol over the sandbags and fired.

Stafford saw Zwilling's M-4 rifle nearby so he loaded it, put it on top of the sandbag and fired. Another couple RPGs struck the sandbag wall Stafford used as cover. Shrapnel pierced his hands.

Stafford low-crawled to another fighting position where Cpl. Jason Bogar, Sgt. Matthew Gobble and Sgt. Ryan Pitts were located. Stafford told Pitts that the insurgents were within grenade-tossing range. That got Pitts' attention.

With blood running down his face, Pitts threw a grenade and then crawled to the position from where Stafford had just come. Pitts started chucking more grenades.

The firefight intensified. Bullets cut down tree limbs that fell on the soldiers. RPGs constantly exploded.

Back at Stafford's position, so many bullets were coming in that the soldiers could not poke their heads over their sandbag wall. Bogar stuck an M-249 machine gun above the wall and squeezed off rounds to keep fire on the insurgents. In about five minutes, Bogar fired about 600 rounds, causing the M-249 to seize up from heat.

At another spot on the observation post, Cpl. Jonathan Ayers laid down continuous fire from an M-240 machine gun, despite drawing small-arms and RPG fire from the enemy. Ayers kept firing until he was shot and killed.

Cpl. Pruitt Rainey radioed the FOB with a casualty report, calling for help. Of the nine soldiers at the observation post, Ayers and Phillips were dead, Zwilling was unaccounted for, and three were wounded.

Additionally, several of the soldiers' machine guns couldn't fire because of damage. And they needed more ammo.

Rainey, Bogar and another soldier jumped out of their fighting position with the third

soldier of the group launching a shoulder-fired missile.

All this happened within the first 20 minutes of the fight.

Platoon leader 1st Lt. Jonathan Brostrom and Cpl. Jason Hovater arrived at the observation post to reinforce the soldiers. By that time, the insurgents had breached the perimeter of the observation post.

Gunfire rang out, and Rainey shouted, "He's right behind the sandbag."

Brostrom could be heard shouting about the insurgent as well.

More gunfire and grenade explosions ensued. Back in the fighting position, Gobble fired a few quick rounds. Gobble then looked to where the soldiers were fighting and told Stafford the soldiers were dead.

Of the nine soldiers who died in the battle, at least seven fell in fighting at the observation post.

The insurgents then started chucking rocks at Gobble and Stafford's fighting position, hoping that the soldiers might think the rocks were grenades, causing them to jump from the safety of their fighting hole.

One rock hit a tree behind Stafford and landed directly between his legs.

He braced himself for an explosion. He then realized it was a rock.

Stafford didn't have a weapon, and Gobble was low on ammo.

Gobble told Stafford they had to get back to the FOB. They didn't realize that Pitts was still alive in another fighting position at the observation post. Gobble and Stafford crawled out of their fighting hole.

Gobble looked again to where the soldiers had been fighting and reconfirmed to Stafford that Brostrom, Rainey, Bogar and others were dead.

Gobble and Stafford low-crawled and ran back to the FOB. Coming into the FOB, Stafford was asked by a sergeant what was going on at the observation post. Stafford told him all the soldiers there were dead.

Stafford lay against a wall, and his fellow soldiers put a tourniquet on him.

From the OP, Pitts got on the radio and told his comrades he was alone.

Volunteers were asked for to go to the OP. SSG Jesse Queck sums up the reaction to the call: "When you ask for volunteers to run across an open field to a reinforced OP that almost everybody is injured at, and everybody volunteers, it feels good."

There were a lot of guys that made me proud, putting themselves and their lives on the line so their buddies could have a chance."

At least three soldiers went to the OP to rescue Pitts, but they suffered wounds after encountering RPG and small-arms fire, but Pitts survived the battle.

At that time, air support arrived in the form of Apache helicopters, A-10s and F-16s, performing bombing and strafing runs.

The whole FOB was covered in dust and smoke, looking like something out of an old Western movie.

"I've never seen the enemy do anything like that," said Sgt. Jacob Walker, who was medically evacuated off the FOB in one of the first helicopters to arrive. "It's usually three RPGs, some sporadic fire and then they're gone . . . I don't where they got all those RPGs. That was crazy."

Two hours after the first shots were fired, Stafford made his way—with help—to the medevac helicopter that arrived.

"It was some of the bravest stuff I've ever seen in my life, and I will never see it again because those guys," Stafford said, then paused.

"Normal humans wouldn't do that. You're not supposed to do that—getting up and firing back when everything around you is popping and whizzing and trees, branches com-

ing down and sandbags exploding and RPGs coming in over your head . . . It was a fist-fight then, and those guys held 'em off."

Stafford offered a guess as to why his fellow soldiers fought so hard.

"Just hardcoreness I guess," he said. "Just guys kicking ass, basically."

"Just making sure that we look scary enough that you don't want to come in and try to get us."

Jeff Emanuel summed the fight up very well:

"Perhaps the most important takeaway from that encounter, though, is the one that the mainstream media couldn't be bothered to pay attention long enough to learn: that, not for the first time, a contingent of American soldiers that was outnumbered by up to a twenty-to-one ratio soundly and completely repulsed a complex, pre-planned assault by those dedicated enough to their cause to kill themselves in its pursuit."

That kind of heroism and against-all-odds success is and has been a hallmark of America's fighting men and women, and it is one that is worthy of all attention we can possibly give it."

Of the original 45 paratroopers, 15 were wounded and The Sky Soldiers lost 9 killed in action in the attack. They were:

1LT Jonathan Brostrom of Aiea, Hawaii
SGT Israel Garcia of Long Beach, California
SPC Matthew Phillips of Jasper, Georgia
SPC Pruitt Rainey of Haw River, North Carolina
SPC Jonathan Ayers of Snellville, Georgia
SPC Jason Bogar of Seattle, Washington
SPC Sergio Abad of Morganfield, Kentucky
SPC Jason Hovater of Clinton, Tennessee
SPC Gunnar Zwilling of Florissant, Missouri.

Of the 9 that were lost, Sgt. Walker says:

"I just hope these guys' wives and their children understand how courageous their husbands and dads were. They fought like warriors."

They fought like warriors.

Last week, there were 9 funerals in the United States. 9 warriors were laid to rest. 9 warriors who had given their all for their country.

All proud members of a brotherhood that will carry on in their name. They fought and died in what most would consider impossible circumstances, and yet they succeeded. A nameless fight in a distant war which, until you understand the facts, could be spun as a defeat. It wasn't. And it is because of the pride, courage and fighting spirit of this small unit that it was, in fact, a victory against overwhelming odds. And there's little doubt, given that pride and given that fighting spirit, that they'll be back to reestablish the base, this time with quite a few more soldiers just like the ones who "kicked ass" the last time there.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JUDY GILBERT-GOULD AND HER WORK WITH THE GREATER MIAMI JEWISH FEDERATION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to honor one of south Florida's great citizens, Judy Gilbert-Gould. She has spent most of her life working on behalf of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation. She has spent a lifetime of service to the community. For the past 25 years, Judy has been advocating for equality and respect for Jews across the globe.

Judy's desire to serve and lifelong commitment to helping those in need was spurred by her father, the late Stanley C. Myers, who founded the Greater Miami Jewish Federation in his backyard in 1939. Before joining the federation full-time, Judy worked as director of Victim-Witness Services at the Florida State attorney's office, community services director for the Miami Beach Redevelopment Agency, and as executive director of the American Jewish Congress.

Judy's dedication not only led her to help those in her community, but she also became a voice for many around the world. She worked on behalf of Soviet Jews who were trying to escape the horrors of communism by fleeing to Israel. She worked closely with the Florida delegations in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to encourage our Nation's strong partnership with Israel, as well as to denounce the genocide in Sudan and to care for Holocaust survivors.

Judy has received awards from the national Council of Jewish Women, the city of Miami Beach, and from Jewish Community Services of South Florida, to name a few. I am proud to be her representative in Congress. Judy serves as an example for countless individuals throughout south Florida. I am sure she will continue on with her mission to empower those most vulnerable among us.

LINCOLN'S JOURNEY OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln, one of our Nation's greatest Presidents. Our Nation began a three-year celebration this year honoring Lincoln's life. This bicentennial celebration includes a number of events throughout the Nation—including events in my southern Indiana congressional district, where Lincoln grew from a young boy to a man between 1816 and 1830. Throughout Lincoln's formative years in southern Indiana, he experienced a number of life-changing events including the tragic loss of his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and his sister, Sarah Lincoln Grigsby.

One of the events commemorating President Lincoln's time in Indiana is the recreation of his 1828 flatboat trip to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he delivered a load of produce for a local merchant. Popular lore indicates that it was on this trip that Lincoln witnessed a slave auction, helping to shape his views on the practice of slavery. The voyage also illustrates Lincoln's enterprising nature at a relatively young age.

The recreation of this journey will include 22 stops over 27 days down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers in eight States: Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana. At each stop, the flatboat crew will educate citizens about the importance of Abraham Lincoln's legacy, as well as increasing awareness of the Abraham Lincoln historical sites in southern Indiana, including the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Lincoln City, Indiana.

The flatboat journey, dubbed Lincoln's Journey of Remembrance, will begin today, September 9, 2008, with a ceremony in Rockport, Indiana. The ceremony will include remarks by State and local officials, as well as patriotic musical performances. Hundreds of residents and school children will witness the event, and dignitaries will join crew members for the first leg of the voyage to Owensboro, Kentucky. The Rockport Post Office will also issue a commemorative postmark cancellation stamp to commemorate the occasion.

Lincoln's Journey of Remembrance will reach out to citizens that otherwise would not have known or experienced an Abraham Lincoln bicentennial event. The chance to educate individuals outside Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, and Washington, DC, cannot be undervalued and is one of the primary responsibilities for the bicentennial celebration. I am proud that this recreation, which also recreates a similar 1958 trip, was developed by my fellow Hoosiers.

This project would have not been possible without the assistance of Mr. Ron Drake, the flatboat owner and project underwriter, as well as several local and regional business and civic contributors. On behalf of my constituents, I wish to thank and commend these individuals and organizations. Special tribute must also be paid to the Lincoln's Journey of Remembrance Organizing Committee for their dedication and hard work, which ranged from raising funds to support the voyage to physically refitting the flatboat for this adventure. It has been a pleasure to work with them to facilitate this voyage.

It is an honor and privilege to represent Rockport and the Abraham Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Congress. It is my sincere hope that other Members of Congress and citizens from across the Nation will participate in the many planned public events commemorating President Lincoln. I congratulate the community on organizing this celebration and wish the crew Godspeed.

HONORING THE SAGINAW FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Saginaw Michigan Fire Department. The Department celebrated 150 years of protecting the public at a celebration on September 6th in Saginaw.

The idea for a fire department in Saginaw was born in 1854 as the result of a tragic fire that year. Business leaders in the South and East Villages of Saginaw held initial organization meetings in 1857 and the fire department became operational in 1858. Originally a volunteer department with one Engine House, the first career fire fighters were employed full-time in the 1880s.

As the City of Saginaw grew so did the fire department. There are now four fire stations and the department is a member of the Regional Response Team Network created to respond to hazardous materials incidents. The

Saginaw Fire Department employs technology in fighting fires through the use of ISI Breathing Air System, thermal imaging equipment, and onboard computerization in command vehicles. They also utilize a six-story fire-training tower.

The Saginaw Fire Department is active in fire prevention. They conduct fire safety education, maintain an Insurance Services Office insurance classification 3, enforce Fire Codes, and operate a Fire Safety House. The Saginaw Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level of service to the citizens of Saginaw.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Chief E. Dean Holland and the men and women of the Saginaw Fire Department for 150 years of protecting and safeguarding the public. Their courage and dedication are an inspiration to the community and may they continue their diligent service in safety for many, many years to come.

HONORING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF SECOND MORNING STAR MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Second Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church in Attapulgus, Georgia, which for the past 130 years, has been a beacon of hope and a sacred place of worship for many in the Second Congressional District.

According to a warranty deed dated February 11, 1878, Second Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church has existed at approximately the same location since its founding. In addition to providing a place of worship, the site also served as a school house for African-American children in the community at the beginning of the 20th century—an invaluable resource at a time in our Nation's history when education for African-Americans was a rare thing.

Building of the current structure was completed in 1956, under the Reverend J.L. Wingfield, a faithful servant of God and one of the church's thirteen pastors during its long and venerable history. The longest-serving pastor, Reverend C.D. Hammonds, served Christ, his community and the church for thirty wonderful years. The church's current pastor, Reverend Randall Hines, is in his seventh year and has overseen a large amount of growth, as well as an expansion of the sanctuary.

Second Morning Star now has worship services every Sunday, and is able to spread the word with the glorious sound of four choirs, Christian education classes for new members, and different ministries which serve every sector of the congregation.

Madam Speaker, it indeed is an honor and a privilege to know this church is in my district. I am proud to be able to serve Second Morning Star Church, and wish its members many more years of blessed service to their Lord and community.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH DAKOTA DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of employees at three excellent South Dakota organizations, Black Hills Workshop and Training Center, Northern Hills Training Center, and Community Connections, who have each sent representatives to Washington, DC, this week to take part in the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) 2008 Governmental Activities Seminar.

In my work in Congress, I have made fair and equitable treatment of people with disabilities a priority. Identifying the key issues and areas on which to focus has been the result of a dialogue with those who know the issues best: people like the employees at Black Hills Workshop, Northern Hills Training Center, and Community Connections. These good folks are working in South Dakota right now to provide direct support and services to individuals with disabilities of all ages.

Black Hills Workshop and Training Center, Northern Hills Training Center, and Community Connections employ nearly 600 direct support professionals (DSPs) who provide a range of supports seven days a week, 24-hours a day to help those with mental and physical disabilities live and work in their community. Together this outstanding, highly trained, highly skilled, and highly committed workforce supports nearly 800 people with disabilities in South Dakota as they strive to live up to their potential and be as independent as they can be. Many of the people receiving supports from DSPs, both at these three agencies and around the country, hold paid and volunteer jobs, contributing a great deal to their communities. But without the dedicated daily work of DSPs, such contributions may not be possible and the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families would be disrupted and unfulfilled.

Without an adequately paid, trained and dedicated workforce, our Nation's individuals with disabilities and their families face a less secure future. Without the necessary workforce, providers cannot help our Nation fulfill the commitment Congress made to people with disabilities in the Americans with Disabilities Act, as the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed in its Olmstead decision.

I applaud the people at Black Hills Workshop and Training Center, Northern Hills Training Center, and Community Connections for taking a lead on this workforce issue. And, as a member of the Bipartisan Disabilities Caucus and the Congressional Mental Health Caucus, I encourage all of my Colleagues to examine their commitment to providing the best support possible to the people with disabilities in their districts.

There is no better way to recognize the contribution DSPs make to the Nation than to ensure that they are fairly compensated. Direct support professionals make a difference; they should make a living too. I ask that my colleagues join with me in cosponsoring the bipartisan Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act (H.R. 1279) and to urge hearings on this important issue in the coming months.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. JAMES HERMAN FAULKNER, SR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Bay Minette and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Mr. James H. Faulkner, Sr., known to his many friends simply as Mr. Jimmy, was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his life. In a loving tribute, Mobile's Press-Register noted that Mr. Jimmy "left behind a lasting legacy of achievements that contributed to the economic, educational, and cultural well-being of his community, his county and his state."

First and foremost, Mr. Jimmy loved Bay Minette; he loved Alabama; and he loved his country. In fact, he was one of the most patriotic men I have ever known.

He answered his Nation's call to service and attained the rank of first lieutenant serving as pilot and flight instructor in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. When Mr. Jimmy went back to Alabama following his military service, he returned to what was already a successful career. He was the owner of the Baldwin Times newspaper and had served as mayor of his beloved Bay Minette. In fact, when Mr. Jimmy was elected mayor in 1941, he was said to be the youngest mayor in America.

Years later, Mr. Jimmy went on to serve Baldwin, Monroe, and Escambia Counties by becoming one of Alabama's most respected and influential State senators. He also ran twice for Governor of Alabama.

Mr. Jimmy blazed a trail of success in the world of business, spanning 42 years as the owner and publisher of a chain of south Alabama newspapers, and he served as president of seven radio stations in Alabama and Georgia. However, he was not a person to rest on his laurels.

Mr. Jimmy's entrepreneurial talents gave him the confidence to start Loyal American Life Insurance Company of Mobile. During most of the past 50 years, he was associated with Volkert & Associates, one of the top engineering, architectural, planning, and environmental firms in the United States. He served on the boards of two Baldwin County banks as well as the board of Alpine Laboratories of Bay Minette.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Jimmy's legacy will be his lifelong dedication to improving education. He served as chairman of the board of directors for Alabama Christian College in Montgomery, which was renamed Faulkner University in his honor and now has campuses in Huntsville and Mobile. He was instrumental in bringing a 2-year college to Baldwin County, which became the James H. Faulkner State Community College in Bay Minette. During his tenure as a State senator, Mr. Jimmy was credited with establishing the teachers' retirement system. He was awarded eight honorary doctorate degrees in law and humane letters, and he served on several commissions that worked to improve Alabama's secondary education system.

Over his lifetime, Mr. Jimmy received more than 35 awards. He was named the North

Baldwin Chamber of Commerce Person of the Century in 2000, and in 2003, he was awarded the Alabama Press Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1992, the Alabama State Senate and House of Representatives passed a resolution commending Mr. Jimmy for his outstanding personal achievement.

Madam Speaker, there has been no other individual more important to south Alabama or to the life of his community than James H. Jimmy Faulkner, Sr. Mr. Jimmy will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Karlene Faulkner; his sons, James H. Faulkner, Jr., and his wife, Beverly Faulkner, and Dr. Henry Wade Faulkner and his wife, Ann Blackburn Faulkner; his eight grandchildren, and his 14 great grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO HANNIBAL LAGRANGE COLLEGE

HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. HULSHOF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark a significant date in higher education in northeast Missouri. My congressional district is privileged to be home to many honorable and successful institutions of higher learning. Among them, Hannibal-LaGrange College this very month celebrates its sesquicentennial. For 150 years, Hannibal-LaGrange has provided quality Christian education to untold thousands of students while remaining true to its God-given principles and beliefs.

The humble journey began in LaGrange, MO, about 30 miles north of the college's current campus. The college opened its doors on September 15, 1858, as the LaGrange Male and Female Seminary, founded by the Wyaconda Baptist Association. Steering this ship on the first leg of its journey was William Ellis. Ellis was the college's first president and just 24 years old when classes started in September 1858. The school's young journey was derailed just 4 years later when Union troops commandeered the college's facilities for use during the Civil War.

Once the college reopened in 1866, Dr. Joshua Flood Cook, the new president, faced the awesome tasks of replacing equipment, textbooks, faculty and staff, as well as rebuilding campus facilities, community support and confidence. Cook successfully fought these battles and served as president for 30 years, advancing the institution perhaps more than any other single individual in its history.

After 70 years in its LaGrange home, college leadership accepted an overture to move the campus south to the northeast edge of Hannibal. In 1927, Hannibal-LaGrange College opened the doors to its Hannibal campus, which still sits today on those 110 acres of scenic hills and woods on the bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River.

The college continued to grow and serve the community through the middle part of the 20th century. In 1973, however, the college faced its first real test since the move to Hannibal. Inflation and other financial strains put the college's very future in jeopardy. Community leaders, area residents and HLG personnel forcefully answered in one voice, raising \$85,000 to keep the college's doors open

and averting what would have been the college's immediate closure.

While 1973 marked the college's first test in Hannibal, it wasn't the last or most severe. Sixteen years later, on June 22, 1989, a small fire that started in the college's cafeteria area soon grew to a raging inferno, swallowing many of the college's vital facilities, including the campus' administration building, auditorium and gymnasium. Black smoke billowed into the air, visible from miles away. Emergency responders worked through the night to douse the fire. But doused with the fire were hopes and dreams for the coming fall semester and the collective futures of incoming students. By daylight, as only charred remains of the structures stood, any thoughts of a successful future vanished into the air with the remnants of the previous night's smoke.

However, President Dr. Paul Brown began the next morning with a pledge to hold classes on campus that very fall. Dr. Brown led college trustees and personnel on a massive effort to rebuild and expand the campus. A large burlap tent was erected on campus for chapel services that fall, classes were held in dormitory basements and trailers on campus and a massive reconstruction program began in an effort to rebuild what had been lost.

Just 3 years later, following the construction of a new sports complex, computer center and cafeteria, the college dedicated its new administration building under the leadership of Dr. Brown and current President Dr. Woodrow Burt. On the cornerstone of this building, built on the site of the administration building lost in the 1989 fire, is a passage from Isaiah 61:3, "A crown of beauty instead of ashes." This building was later renamed for Dr. Burt, who became president of the college in 1995 and still proudly yet humbly serves in that position today.

But the journey for HLG is not complete. The vision for the college's growth and service continued forward over the past decade, as the college constructed a new dormitory and the Roland Fine Arts Center, the centerpiece of the college's recent expansions. The college is also in the midst of a \$30-million campaign, "Building for the Future," which calls for the construction of a new library, allied health and science center and dormitory renovations, as well as enhancing the college's endowment.

Throughout this journey, beating in the heart of HLG is a desire to serve Christ, embodied in the college's motto, "Knowledge for Service." HLG strengthened this commitment over the last 4 years through its implementation of missions programs that serve both domestic and international missions opportunities year-round. HLG is a multiple recipient of the Courts Redford Award, the top award among U.S. colleges and universities for mobilizing students for missions with the North American Mission Board. In May of this year, HLG was named number one among 314 colleges and universities that send students to work with the NAMB.

Madam Speaker, I was honored to stand before this Chamber 10 years ago to commend HLG's commitment to excellence and its use of knowledge for service during their 140th anniversary. I am again privileged to stand before this body and congratulate my friends at HLG for 150 years of quality Christian education. May God continue to bless this fine institution for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD votes I would have cast had I been present for rollcall votes 567 through 569. I was absent on Monday, September 8 due to CODEL travel.

If I were present I would have voted, "aye" on rollcall vote 567, "aye" on rollcall vote 568, and "aye" on rollcall vote 569.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, on rollcall 567; S. 2403, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall 568, S. 2837, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall 569, S. 2135, I was not present. If I had been there, I would have voted "yea."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. MARSHALL PRICKETT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day in the lives of two constituents of mine, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Prickett.

On September 13, the Pricketts will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Marshall Prickett was born on October 19, 1934, in Alexandria, Alabama, and his wife, Margaret, was born on July 2, 1935, in Weaver. Over the years, Marshall and Margaret have been blessed with three sons, Marshall, Michael, and Matthew, as well as eight grandchildren.

I would like to congratulate Marshall and Margaret for reaching this important milestone in their lives. They are shining examples of love and dedication for us all, and I wish them and their family all the best at this important occasion.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

SPEECH OF

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former Ohio Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES and her lifetime of dedication to the people of Ohio and the United States. I

was deeply saddened to learn our colleague passed away so suddenly. We have not only lost a wonderful friend but an individual who made a number of historic achievements during her lifetime.

After graduating from law school at Case Western Reserve University, STEPHANIE began her career with Cleveland's sewer district before serving as an attorney with the city's Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. In 1976, she served as an assistant Cuyahoga County prosecutor before her election as Cleveland Municipal Court judge in 1981. Two years later, the governor of Ohio appointed her to a judgeship with the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County, and in 1991, STEPHANIE was appointed Cuyahoga County prosecutor.

STEPHANIE was elected to represent the 11th District of Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1998. Throughout her 5 terms of office, she strove for advances in health care, economic development, and education. Recently, she had become a leader in the fight against predatory lending practices.

Most notably, STEPHANIE's legacy will be her career filled with firsts. She was the first African-American and the first female to serve as prosecutor in her native Cuyahoga County, Ohio. STEPHANIE was the first African-American to be chief prosecutor in the State of Ohio's history. She also became the first African-American woman to represent Ohio in Congress and the first to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee.

At the beginning of the 110th Congress, STEPHANIE was named chairwoman of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, of which I am a member.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES will be deeply missed by her family—her son, Mervyn Jones II and her two sisters—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

MS. SANDRA IRONS AND MR. MARVIN SETZER, JR.

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to honor two of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Sandra Irons and Marvin Setzer, Jr., upon their retirement from their positions with the Gary, Indiana Teachers Union, Local Number 4, American Federation of Teachers (AFT). Sandra and Marvin's membership in the Gary Teachers Union date back to the beginning of their careers in 1961 and 1962, respectively, and the impact they have had on the quality of life for educators in the city of Gary is immeasurable. For their lifetime of service to the Gary Teachers Union, the Indiana Teachers Union, and the American Federation of Teachers, Sandra and Marvin were honored at a retirement celebration that took place at the Genesis Convention Center in Gary, Indiana, on Friday, August 15, 2008.

Sandra Jean (Carr) Irons' career in education began following her graduation from Kentucky State College in 1960, where she completed her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics and Chemistry. Following that, she

went on to receive her Master's degree in Teaching Mathematics from Purdue University, West Lafayette. Prior to her work with the Gary Teachers Union, Sandra was a mathematics teacher for the Gary School Corporation from 1961 to 1971. Following her ten years in the classroom, Sandra was elected President of the Gary Teachers Union, a position she held until her recent retirement on June 30, 2008. During those years, she served in many other capacities, not only with the Gary Teachers Union, but with the Indiana Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of Teachers as well.

Sandra has also participated in numerous civic and community organizations, including: the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Lake Area United Way, the Lake County Mental Health Association, the Coalition of Labor Union Women, the YWCA, and the Gary Educational Foundation. For her outstanding efforts, Ms. Irons has received many accolades and awards. To name a few, she was awarded the Viola Briley Service Award by the Gary Teachers Union, the Adam Benjamin, Jr., Advocacy Award by the Mental Health Association, the Labor Leader of the Year Award by the Calumet Project, and the United Way of America's Joseph A. Beirne Community Service Award.

Marvin Setzer, Jr., completed his Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education at Winston Salem Teachers' College in North Carolina in 1962, followed by his Master's degree in Elementary Education from Indiana University, Bloomington. From 1962 to 1981, Marvin was employed by the Gary Community School Corporation as an elementary school teacher. During that time, he began his career as the Working Conditions Committee Chairperson for the Gary Teachers Union. He held this position for more than 30 years before his recent retirement on June 30, 2008. During this time, he has also held other positions with the Gary Teachers Union, including the Coordinator for the Pre-Retirement Planning Seminar, as well as several other posts with the Indiana Federation of Teachers, where he served as its president, the Northwest Indiana Council of Teachers Unions, and the American Federation of Teachers' Progressive Caucus.

Throughout the years, Marvin has also donated much of his time to various community and civic organizations, including: the Lake Area United Way, the Referral Emergency Agency, the Northwest Indiana Open Housing Center, Tots and Teens, and Saint Timothy Community Church.

Madam Speaker, Sandra Irons and Marvin Setzer, Jr., have given their time and efforts selflessly to the teachers, as well as to the students and the community, in Gary, Indiana. Throughout the years, and through their efforts, the quality of life for their colleagues has improved, and the pair has served as true role models to their peers and as true friends to Northwest Indiana. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Sandra and Marvin for their outstanding contributions and in wishing them well upon their retirement.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR CAREGIVERS SUPPORTING CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to a looming crisis. I have been involved in finding ways to address the growing nursing workforce shortage that threatens access to quality health care for retiring members of the baby boom generation. There is another workforce crisis with which we should also be concerned, which is that facing direct support professionals, often referred to as personal assistants or home health aides. These dedicated individuals provide the kind of daily assistance that allows people with intellectual and developmental disabilities the option to live in home or community-based settings rather than institutions when appropriate. This not only saves taxpayer dollars through the Medicaid program but dramatically improves quality of life for these Americans.

However, wages for direct support professionals have historically been low, particularly those in private non-profit settings. Vacancy rates for direct support professionals are rapidly increasing as other service and health care sector jobs become more competitive. In my home state of Iowa the annual turnover rate at non-profit service providers ranges from 20 percent to more than 40 percent.

It takes individuals with special skills and compassionate motivation to be direct support professionals. For example, Pete Faust has been working at Opportunity Village, a home and community-based services provider in Clear Lake, Iowa, for over 31 years. Although Pete must work extra hours just to pay his bills, he continues to work at Opportunity Village because he understands that consistency and familiarity are what his clients need. Many direct support professionals like Pete would like to continue in this field but are faced with hard choices when there are opportunities to earn more money for their families in other occupations.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the demand for this workforce will increase 41 percent by 2014, and the number of people needing personal assistance services will double by 2050. The current crisis will soon grow exponentially. That is why I strongly support measures like H.R. 1279, the Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act, which creates federal-state Medicaid partnerships to find innovative ways to provide incentives such as increased wages for these workers on a sustainable basis.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort by cosponsoring this legislation and urging the leadership of the House of Representatives to move this and similar proposals forward.

IN RECOGNITION OF HERSCHEL ELKINS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, the consumers of California and our nation will lose

their premier protector when Herschel Elkins retires from the California Attorney General's Office this month. Mr. Elkins has devoted his entire career to public service and protecting California's consumers. He is the most senior attorney and longest-serving employee in the AG's office, having celebrated his 50th anniversary in December, 2006.

Herschel Elkins received his J.D. from UCLA in 1956 and began work the same year as a Deputy Attorney General, where he served briefly in the criminal section before transferring to the civil division. Following the Watts riots in 1965, a report commissioned by Governor Pat Brown cited a contributing factor as frustration in the community with merchants taking unfair advantage of the poor. The legislature acted by bolstering the Attorney General's nascent Consumer Fraud Unit and Mr. Elkins was appointed to lead the effort, a position he occupied until 2004 when he was appointed Special Assistant Attorney General for Consumer Policy, Coordination and Development.

During his long tenure with the Consumer Law Section, Herschel used all the arrows in his quiver—litigation, legislation and education—to protect the rights of consumers and push California to the forefront of consumer protection. Mr. Elkins drafted or shepherded many of our state's vital consumer protection laws, including anti-pyramid statutes, the establishment of the Bureau of Auto Repair, laws providing for a "cooling off period" for home solicitations, and mandating civil penalties for unfair competition. As a litigator, Mr. Elkins has represented the Attorney General in more than 150 appellate cases. He has also publicized the Section's work and educated the public about their rights on hundreds of radio and television programs.

Madam Speaker it was a distinct privilege to work side-by-side with Herschel on consumer issues during my time in the California legislature. His knowledge, passion and creativity improved every piece of legislation he reviewed and made those of us whose names were on the bills look that much smarter. I am just one of hundreds of legislators who owe him a sincere debt of gratitude.

After so many years looking after the public welfare, Herschel and Miriam, his wife of 48 years, will enjoy a retirement devoted to their inspiring and growing family. They will travel to Israel, New York and Pennsylvania to spend time with their three sons, David, Jeremy and Joel and their families. Herschel, known as much for his storytelling ability as his legal brilliance, will entertain his grandchildren and, no doubt, pass along his commitment to community and his profound sense of justice. Our state's loss is the Elkins family's well-earned gain.

But Madam Speaker, a dedicated public servant like Herschel Elkins doesn't just walk away from his life's work. Something tells me that Herschel will make himself available to members of the Consumer Law Section and others devoted to the public good who seek his help and guidance.

On behalf of the many millions of protected consumers in the State of California, I ask that the United States House of Representatives join me in saluting Mr. Herschel Elkins for his long career devoted to protecting and guaranteeing a vibrant, just and equitable marketplace.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BARRY
BECKER JR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend Barry Becker Jr., who passed away August 12, 2008.

Mr. Becker was born on June 11, 1970 in Burbank, California, and within a year of his birth he was a resident of the Las Vegas community. He graduated from Bishop Gorman High School in 1988. After high school he attended Arizona State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in fine arts. After graduating from college, Barry decided to uphold the endeavors and honorable work ethic of his family by joining their business, Becker Realty Corp. His congenial personality and his strong ties to the community were immediate assets to the company, but they also helped make Barry independently successful.

Through his many humanitarian efforts in community and business activities, he continuously demonstrated the honorable principles and standards championed by the Southern Nevada community. A man of great faith, he truly understood the importance of prayer and positivity and he strived to maintain a positive attitude and uplifting spirit.

As son, brother, husband and friend, Mr. Becker never failed to show the utmost respect, dedication and love to everyone around him. I offer my heartfelt condolences and genuine support to his dear wife Shannon, his brothers Danny and Randy, his parents Sue and Barry, his grandmother Betty and to all those who held him dear, of which there were undoubtedly many.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life and legacy of my friend Barry Becker Jr. His work and dedication to the Las Vegas community were commendable and enriched countless lives. Mr. Becker was a great man and he will always be admired for his compassion, dedication to his family, and his generosity. Most of all, he will be profoundly missed.

IAN RONDALL CALEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ian Rondall Caley, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 100, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Ian's Eagle Scout service project consisted of building a scoreboard table for the Bethany Memorial Park Softball Field. Ian supervised other scouts, friends and family that assisted with this project. This project continues the long tradition of community service established by the Boy Scouts of America.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ian Rondall Caley for his

accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

THE DAILY 45: MENTALLY ILL
ASSAILANT KILLS SIX

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States, a significant number of those deaths stem from a lethal weapon wielded by a mentally ill assailant. Such was the case, last week, in a small town in Washington state where reports say that a 28-year-old young man killed Skagit County Deputy Sheriff Anne Jackson, and five other men and women who were also in the line of fire.

How did this happen? The assailant's grieving mother, Dennise Zamora, said her son had refused treatment for mental illness for years and, for much of that time, he had been living, literally, in isolation in the woods of the town of Alger where the rampage took place. Mrs. Zamora called police that day in a desperate cry for help as she'd noticed her son invading her neighbors' homes. The responding officer, Sheriff Jackson, was someone who had even tried to help Zamora's son obtain treatment.

My condolences are extended to these victims, this community and the Zamora family in the wake of these senseless deaths.

Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing!"

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY
FAMILY ACTION PLAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Army Family Action Plan which took place on August 15.

The Army Family Action Plan is an Army-wide program that aims to improve Army quality of life. Through this plan, all members of the Army, including active, reserve, and National Guard soldiers, family members, retirees, surviving spouses, DA civilians, and military technicians have a forum to voice concerns to Army leadership and make recommendations for a change regarding standards of living.

The past 25 years has proven to be a success for the Army Family Action Plan as the Army leadership has trusted its recommendations and taken action on many new policies due to the plan's ideas.

I was originally involved with the creation of the Army Family Action Plan after watching a film called "Where's Dad" by Dr. James Dobson. This video addresses some of the great-

est threats to meaningful family life: fatigue, time pressures, overcommitment and workaholicism watching it was a life changing experience for me. Afterward, I changed my priorities, put my family first and committed to keeping Sundays free of events to spend more time with my family. Because this video had such a profound impact on me, I shared it with others who I thought it may help, including other members of Congress and also General Wickham, who was instrumental in developing the Army Family Action Plan.

I commend the Army for enacting this plan which provides soldiers and their families a way to get their perspective heard which in turn betters the quality of life of those who serve or have served in the Army.

I am proud to join with the Army in celebrating this significant anniversary.

DAR: ALIVE AND WELL IN
GUILFORD COUNTY

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, September 17, 2008, begins the national celebration of Constitution Week. Since being signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Americans have set aside time each year to celebrate the document upon which our nation was founded. Constitution Week also highlights the important work performed by the DAR—Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR is a volunteer women's service organization dedicated to keeping America strong by promoting patriotism, preserving U.S. history, and supporting education programs.

The Guilford Battle Chapter of the DAR, founded in Greensboro, NC, in 1901, has been hard at work since its inception in promoting Constitution Week. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate the Guilford Battle Chapter for its more than a century of dedicated service, and we send best wishes to all of its members for a successful event this year.

As a proud member of the Sons of the Revolution, a counterpart to the DAR, I am well aware of the many contributions made by the DAR—particularly the Guilford Battle Chapter. As many of our schools have reduced or eliminated teaching basic civics lessons, the work of the DAR has taken on even more significance. For example, many people do not know that the U.S. Constitution is the oldest Constitution still in active use in the world today and remains the basic document of our Republic. The DAR is committed to preserving and defending the Constitution through its educational and public service programs.

On September 17, take a moment to reflect on what the U.S. Constitution means to you. If you know anyone who is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, take another moment to thank her for her service. In particular, if you know anyone who is a member of the Guilford Battle Chapter of the DAR, tell her that Congressman HOWARD COBLE is proud of her efforts.

HONORING BOOKS FOR AFRICA
FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the work of an internationally recognized nongovernmental organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota, that for the past 25 years has helped to transform the lives of millions of people—young and old—across the continent of Africa. With commitment and a passion for putting a book in the hands of children and elders hungry for knowledge, Books for Africa is an organization that has shipped more than 20 million books to more than 35 African countries since 1988. In so many African cities, towns and rural schools, where students had no access to books, there are now books for learning, enjoyment, and to experience the wonders of the world.

Mr. Tom Warth is the founder of Books for Africa and he is an inspirational humanitarian. Tom's vision, enthusiasm, and his ongoing commitment, along with the work of all the board of directors of Books for Africa, continues to transform lives by facilitating the shipment of container after container of books that put real books in the hands of real people.

Now, under the strong leadership of Mr. Pat Plonsky, I am proud to continue my office's ongoing relationship with Books for Africa. Their collaborations with Peace Corps volunteers, the State Department, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, enables the U.S. to demonstrate both its generosity and its willingness to provide a tangible learning tool. Last year, in partnership with USAID's Africa Education Initiative, 18 containers of books were delivered to Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia. All told, Books for Africa delivered 119 containers of books in 2007 to 22 countries, a truly impressive accomplishment.

This form of public diplomacy—putting the book in the hands of a child or elder—is truly the best face of America and should not only be sustained, but expanded. In the U.S. we take books for granted, but we should never forget the power of a book. And, when they are distributed by the millions, the benefit cannot be overstated.

Let me conclude by also recognizing the extraordinary effort of the volunteers for Books for Africa, as well as the donations of high quality books from publishers, schools and organizations. This combined and coordinated effort is transforming lives. If this generosity and determination to provide books can continue to match the hunger for knowledge, learning, and education by the children and adults all across the African continent, then we will have even greater accomplishments to celebrate in the future.

Again, congratulations to Books for Africa for 25 years of extraordinary work to build a bridge of knowledge, education and hope between Minnesota and communities all across Africa.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES HERBERT
"JIMMIE RED" JONES

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great Arkansas statesman MG (Ret.) James Herbert "Jimmie Red" Jones of Hot Springs, Arkansas, who passed away on September 1, 2008 at the age of 88. He was a former Arkansas State auditor and a former adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard.

I will forever remember Jimmie Red Jones as one of Arkansas's finest. His life was one defined by honor, leadership, and service to the people of Arkansas for over 70 years.

Jimmie Red Jones graduated from Magnolia High School, Southern Arkansas University and Keegan's School of Radio and Television in Memphis. He attended Arkansas Law School and later received the Southern Arkansas University Distinguished Alumni Award in 1988.

Jimmie Red Jones joined the Arkansas National Guard in 1938, and by the time he left active service in 1945, he had received the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters (which he particularly cherished), the Joint Service Medal, the European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal recognition with five Bronze Stars, and the World War II Victory Medal—along with many others. He later rejoined the National Guard in 1947 and remained with the Guard until his promotion to adjutant general in 1979, earning the Legion of Merit and the Armed Forces Reserve Medals.

Jimmie Red Jones returned to Magnolia after the war and sought to serve his community. He organized the Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW, and Chamber of Commerce in Magnolia. Governor Francis Cherry appointed him as State land commissioner in 1955 and he was named Magnolia Man of the Year that same year.

He was also elected State auditor in 1956 and served 12 terms. He would later serve as adjutant general of the Arkansas National Guard from 1979 to 1981 and then from 1983 to 1984.

I will especially always remember the many miles and countless hours that I spent with Jimmie Red Jones on the campaign trail while he pursued his active interest in politics serving as state campaign manager for Bill Clinton's 1982 gubernatorial campaign.

Jimmie Red Jones will be forever remembered in Arkansas as an inspiring example of selfless service to state and country. I extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Shirley Ledbetter Jones, Colonel (Ret.); stepsons Bobby Dale Gentry of Pine Bluff, Barry Gentry of Redfield and Chan Holcombe of Fort Smith; his six grand-step-children and his niece and nephew. Jimmie Red Jones will be greatly missed in Arkansas and we are all truly saddened by this loss.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS
JONES, A REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE STATE OF OHIO

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere condolences for the passing of the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Not only was she a true hero and noble leader in the United States Congress, a trailblazer for all minorities, but she was also a friend who will be dearly missed.

Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' passing is a tragic loss for this Congress and our Nation. Her leadership on the ethics committee and on voting rights will never be forgotten. On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we send our prayers and condolences to her family, friends and staff.

As Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I worked with Representative JONES together on a variety of projects, including our fundraising efforts for Gallaudet University here in Washington, as well as other endeavors which promoted advocacy for low-income and minority communities.

Having been blessed with the opportunity to get to know her outside the walls of Congress as a team member of the Democratic Congressional Basketball Team, I was impressed by her continually cheerful disposition and lively energy. Due to this vigor, she was always able to spread joy to others and add a positive light no matter the situation.

STEPHANIE's death will be felt by all, not just within Cleveland community, but also throughout the Nation because of the ideals she stood for. I offer the thoughts and prayers of my wife Barbara and myself to Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES' son Mervyn and for her family for their loss.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES
OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE STEPHANIE TUBBS
JONES, A REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE STATE OF OHIO

SPEECH OF

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 8, 2008

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my most sincere condolences on the death of the Honorable STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

I was extremely saddened to hear the news of Congresswoman JONES' passing. Since 1999, she has proudly and honorably served Ohio's eleventh district.

STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES was the daughter of an Airport skycap. She grew up in Cleveland and graduated from college and law school at Case Western. She began her life of public service when she went to work as a local government lawyer and went on to serve

8 years as a judge on the Court of Common Pleas of Cuyahoga County. As the first African American woman elected from Ohio to serve in Congress, she brought a fresh energy and new perspective to the House. No one was surprised when she quickly rose to a position on the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

I got to know STEPHANIE in my first term in Congress because my office was next door to hers. She was never too busy to help a freshman member in whatever way she could. Her energy was boundless, and I will sorely miss her smile—it could light up a crowded room. Those who had the good fortune to know this incredible woman know what I am talking about.

During her four terms in Congress, she was a champion for the people of the eleventh district. She worked tirelessly to create equal opportunities for all people in this country as she fought to increase the minimum wage, to increase funding to public schools, and to create affordable and accessible healthcare.

The people of Ohio have lost a great political leader, and we have lost a beloved and respected colleague. We will all miss her friendly smile and her passion for her fellow man.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL: VIRGINIA LEADS THE WAY

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, the years 2011 through 2015 will mark the 150th anniversary of the American Civil War, a momentous milestone for our nation that provides an exceptional opportunity to examine the war, its causes and its legacies. The sesquicentennial commemoration of the American Civil War needs to involve full participation at the local, State and Federal levels. However, as there are currently no Federal plans for the sesquicentennial, the states have stepped in to take the lead in planning for this watershed event. I am proud to announce that Virginia leads the nation in being the first to establish a sesquicentennial commission that is planning events and activities that offer a fair and balanced depiction of Civil War history that includes all perspectives. I am pleased to support the work of the Commission and endorse its plans.

Virginia was the epicenter of the Civil War in the 1860s and continues to be a central location in terms of what visitors can see and experience today. Virginia has more Civil War battlefields, museums and historic sites than any other state, including the historic site of the first land battle of the Civil War at Manassas that is located in the 10th Congressional District, which I represent. Too often when we study history, we tend to think that battles were neatly fought within the split-rail fenced boundaries. In truth, most of Virginia was a battleground during the Civil War.

CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

The Virginia General Assembly created the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission in 2006 for the purpose of preparing for and commemorating the sesquicentennial of Virginia's participation in the American Civil War. Speaker of the House of

Delegates William Howell chairs the Commission, whose other members include President Pro Tempore of the Senate Chuck Colgan, members of the House of Delegates and Senate of Virginia, citizens, and the renowned Civil War historian Dr. James I. "Bud" Robertson, Jr., of Virginia Tech. It is important to recall that Dr. Robertson was selected by President Kennedy to serve as executive director of the Federal Centennial Commission 50 years ago.

The Commission is charged with:

Planning commemorative programs and activities that are designed to involve all citizens and result in a positive legacy and long-term public benefit,

Encouraging civic, historical, educational, economic, and other organizations throughout Virginia to organize and participate in activities to expand the understanding and appreciation of the significance of the American Civil War, and

Providing technical assistance to localities and nonprofit organizations to further the commemoration of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War.

The Commission has established the following goals to guide the commemoration that are reflective of values that are important to Americans today:

Diversity: The commemoration will be inclusive of and meaningful to all Virginians, particularly: diverse racial and ethnic groups, citizens who are new to this country and those who do not have a hereditary link to the American Civil War, and young people and others seeking to understand the relevance of the American Civil War to today's society.

Inclusiveness: The commemoration will seek to portray a fair and balanced story of Virginia's participation in the American Civil War that includes African-American, Union, and Confederate perspectives.

Statewide Accessibility: The commemoration will be statewide, involving all localities and encompassing all Civil War-related institutions, museums, battlefields, parks, and facilities.

Education: The commemoration will include a strong education component designed to ignite a renewed interest in Virginia's historical heritage. Opportunities will be provided to re-examine the lessons of the past and the legacies of the Civil War to understand how they affect the present and continue to shape our future.

Permanence: The commemoration will imprint Virginia history and leave a positive and rich legacy well beyond 2015.

The Commission has begun to develop plans for how to recognize the magnitude of this occasion. The Commission has adopted a vision statement that will guide the commemoration period, "Understanding Our Past, Embracing Our Future," launched a Web site that is receiving national and international attention (www.VirginiaCivilWar.org), and is developing a comprehensive array of initiatives, including:

Statewide coordination: Linking, coordinating, and promoting the hundreds of Civil War museums and sites throughout the state.

Museum exhibitions: Partnering with the Virginia Historical Society to develop a major exhibition, "An American Turning Point: The Civil War in Virginia," as well as the Civil War 150 HistoryMobile, a mobile museum vehicle that will be capable of traveling throughout the nation to bring these important stories directly to the people.

Legacy Project: Document Digitization: Using the sesquicentennial as an opportunity to preserve and provide access to unknown diaries, journals, letters, and other documents that are in private hands, the Library of Virginia will lead a major initiative to identify, catalog, and preserve those documents through digitization and web access. Locating and uncovering this material will provide a boon to Civil War research for years to come.

Signature events: Signature events begin in 2009 with a conference on the coming of the Civil War at the University of Richmond, and a joint commemorative event with the State of West Virginia, planned in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of John Brown's raid on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry. High profile events are planned for the duration of the commemoration to mark important milestones, such as a national event at Manassas in 2011 to mark the 150th anniversary of the first land battle of the war and to set the tone for the sesquicentennial.

I would like to commend the leadership role that the Commonwealth has taken and recognize the work of the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission and urge others to join with them to participate in this commemorating this special occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUSPENSION OF FEDERAL INCOME TAX ON UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ACT OF 2008

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation, the Suspension of Federal Income Tax on Unemployment Benefits Act of 2008, which is designed to help unemployed Americans as they face increasing living costs and a sluggish economy. Specifically, the bill would suspend the federal income tax on unemployment compensation benefits for two years.

As of August 2008, 9.4 million Americans were unemployed, an increase of 2.2 million from just a year ago. Similarly, the unemployment rate has risen from 4.7 percent to 6.1 percent. Closer to home, as of the end of July, in New York State 522,000 people were unemployed, including 26,200 in the 23rd Congressional District, which I have the privilege of representing. Additionally, six of the 11 counties I represent had unemployment numbers that exceeded the national rate.

On September 4, 2008, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that initial unemployment insurance claims had increased 15,000 to 444,000 and that approximately 3.44 million Americans are now receiving unemployment compensation benefits, which currently average \$294 a week. However, these benefits have been significantly eroded by substantial increases in the prices for consumer goods, perhaps most notably, food and energy.

Many fail to realize that Americans must pay federal income taxes on any unemployment compensation benefits they might receive. However, prior to 1979, those payments were excluded from federal income taxation and it was not until 1986 that Congress made such benefits fully taxable.

Accordingly, someone receiving the average unemployment benefit of \$294 a week (\$1,176 a month) who elects to have federal income taxes withheld will realize a loss of approximately \$117.60 a month—money that might better be used for necessities such as food, housing, health insurance, and gasoline. Moreover, many States also choose to make unemployment compensation subject to state income taxes, which further erodes the assistance these hard-working Americans receive in their time of need.

While I was pleased to join with my colleagues earlier this year to enact legislation to extend unemployment benefits for an additional 13 weeks, I firmly believe that we should take the next step of immediately increasing these benefits by exempting them from the federal income tax. Beyond greater assistance to millions of unemployed Americans, this measure would also act to stimulate the economy. In fact, as the Congressional Budget Office has previously estimated, the cessation of income taxes on unemployment benefits would return at least \$3.1 billion annually to those taxpayers who are most in need.

Accordingly, as we consider new ways to help unemployed Americans and to boost the economy, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact the Suspension of Federal Income Tax on Unemployment Benefits Act of 2008.

ARMY RESERVE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial of an organization which is vital to our Nation and brings much honor to the State of Tennessee.

The United States Army Reserve celebrated 100 years of service on April 23, 2008, and the history of its citizen warriors exemplifies what makes this Nation the greatest in the world.

The security and strength of our republic has always relied on the readiness and fortitude of its citizens. When the drumbeat of revolution grew loud, it was an army of average citizens who answered the call and fought for our independence. This tradition continues today with the U.S. Army Reserve.

Since its beginning as a 160-person medical corps in 1908, the U.S. Army Reserve has grown into a force which is the support structure for our Nation's armed forces. From World War I to the global war on terror, the soldiers of the U.S. Army Reserve have put their own lives on hold to serve their Nation.

More than 26,000 U.S. Army Reserve soldiers have served in support of military operations since the September 11th attacks. This corps of citizen soldiers brings their expertise—providing half of the Army's combat support—to the front lines in defense of freedom.

My home State of Tennessee is known as the Volunteer State. It is not a term we take lightly, and Tennessee's record of service demonstrates the character of its citizens.

I am especially proud of the 505 soldiers assigned to the 844th Engineer Battalion, headquartered in my district in Tennessee. This battalion is responsible for heavy con-

struction—including roads, living quarters, plumbing, electricity and other infrastructure, keeping our troops safe and more comfortable while serving abroad.

Our Nation's military could not operate without the 844th Engineer Battalion or the United States Army Reserve.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I urge my colleagues to join me as I salute 100 years of the United States Army Reserve and the citizen warriors who stand ready to defend freedom at a moment's notice.

HONORING CALVIN "JIM" BEATTY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Calvin James Beatty for his dedication to his family and community. Mr. Beatty passed away at Madera Community Hospital on August 19, 2008, at the age of eighty-two.

Mr. Jim Beatty was born in Puente, California on March 21, 1926. He graduated from Sweetwater High School in National City, California in 1944 and immediately enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He served in the Western Pacific during World War II and in China after the war. Before leaving the military he attained the rank of sergeant. He received an Honorable Discharge in April 1947.

In 1949, Mr. Beatty settled in Madera, California. He met and married Edith Mae Sciacqua in 1950. They have three sons; Kelly, John and Jerry. He spent most of his life as the manager of a cotton gin and retired in the 1980's. He had many hobbies, including flying. Mr. Beatty maintained a pilot's license for over fifty years. He served as a deputy sheriff in the Madera County Aero Squadron. He was always active in the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was also involved with the Knights of Columbus and the Young Men's Institute.

Mr. Beatty is survived by his wife and three children, his daughter-in laws; Cheryl, Michele and Brenda, and five grandchildren: Ryan, Meghan, Michael, Christian and Hallie, and one great-grandson: Brannon. He is also survived by his sister, Donna, her husband and numerous extended family members.

Madame Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Jim Beatty for his dedication to his family and community. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

HONORING THE 9TH ANNUAL KALEIDOSCOPE OF HOPE WALK-A-THON

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join with me in paying tribute to 9th Annual Kaleidoscope of Hope Foundation's Walk-a-thon, which would not be possible without the hard work of Gail MacNeil, a wonderful woman who

truly made her mark as a dynamic advocate on behalf of ovarian cancer. On Sunday, September 14, 2008, the good citizens of Morris County will take part in the Kaleidoscope of Hope's 9th Annual Walk-a-thon at Loantaka Brook Reservation.

Gail was diagnosed with Stage IIIC ovarian cancer over Christmas 1997. Sadly, her cancer recurred in 2002 and from then on she was on non-stop chemotherapy until she ultimately lost her brave battle on June 21, 2008. She was an amazing life force who continued to work full time as a realtor at Coldwell Banker as well as actively lead many initiatives at Kaleidoscope of Hope. She was an inspiration to all that knew and worked with her, her family and especially to all the cancer survivors and other families whose lives she so passionately touched over the past ten years.

In 2000, Gail co-founded the Kaleidoscope of Hope Foundation along with two other ovarian cancer survivors, Lois Myers and Patricia Stewart-Busso. The mission of Kaleidoscope of Hope was to raise awareness of ovarian cancer. Gail, Patty and Lois realized that there was a critical and urgent need for more awareness and research to find an early detection test for ovarian cancer, especially in New Jersey, which has the third highest incidence of ovarian cancer in the nation.

In her role as a co-founder, Gail helped enhance research programs and supported the state's first four year Gynecology Oncology Fellow, based at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Last year, Gail initiated the successful "Turn The Towns Teal" campaign which was the first major awareness effort for KOH. At first, this started as a grass-roots teal ribbon tying event in Morris County, New Jersey, however, word quickly spread and people throughout the state joined in and turned their towns teal. Gail also shared her story as part of the Survivors Teaching Students program through the Ovarian Cancer National Alliance.

Madam Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the citizens of the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey and the Kaleidoscope of Hope's Walk-a-thon participants for their efforts to raise awareness for ovarian cancer, and in so doing, celebrating the life of a fine woman and leader.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN JERMANIS, JR.

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2008

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John J. Jermanis, Jr. upon his retirement as the City Manager of San Leandro, California. John's career with the City of San Leandro spanned 37 years. His first position was Assistant Finance Director where he served for 11 years; he next served as Finance Director for 15 years, and was then appointed City Manager in 1997, where he completed an 11-year tenure prior to his retirement.

John was born and raised in Berkeley, California. He graduated from Berkeley High School in 1961, received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from San Francisco State University in 1966, and has furthered his studies in Public Administration at California State University East Bay.

After serving in the Army National Guard from January 1966 to January 1972, John took a position with General Motors' Personnel Division in Fremont from 1967 to 1968. He began his municipal government service in 1969 as an accountant with the city of Livermore, California and in 1971 he was hired by the City of San Leandro.

Under John's management, the City of San Leandro went through one of its largest building periods in history, seeing the completion of the new main library, Creekside Plaza, Hilton Garden Inn, and Westgate Shopping Center.

More recently he has overseen the rejuvenation of Bayfair Center, the opening of the San Leandro History Museum and Art Gallery and the opening of both the Washington Manor Branch Library and the Family Aquatics Center.

Through his guidance, the city has also facilitated a fundamental shift in its business sector, from one largely composed of manufacturing companies to a sector that also includes service and high-tech companies.

John points to his greatest accomplishment as his ability to build and maintain a strong

rapport with each council member and city employees with whom he has worked. John also has gained the respect of his colleagues, and elected officials, as well as the San Leandro community.

He has served the city admirably. His expert leadership, intellect and vast talent and experience as the City of San Leandro's top administrator will be missed. My hat is off to John J. Jermanis, Jr. as he departs for a well-earned retirement. Over the past 37 years, he leaves an unmatched legacy of commitment and dedication.